

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 141

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ELECTIONS: Requires persons conducting exit polls within six hundred feet of a polling place to register with the secretary of state

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:1462.1, relative to electioneering around polling places; to provide relative
3 to registration of persons conducting exit polling in or near polling places; to provide
4 for criminal penalties; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1462.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1462.1. Registration of persons conducting exit polling during early voting or on
9 election day; penalties

10 A. The Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that the right to vote is a right
11 that is essential to the effective operation of a democratic government and that voters
12 should be free from intimidation, harassment, confusion, obstruction, and undue
13 influence in the campaign-free zone provided in R.S. 18:1462(A) by individuals
14 conducting exit polling who have not registered with the secretary of state.

15 B. No person shall conduct an exit poll between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and
16 9:00 p.m. within any polling place being used in an election on election day or
17 during early voting, or within a radius of six hundred feet of the entrance to any
18 polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, unless
19 the person conducting the polling has filed a registration statement with the secretary

1 of state prior to the start of early voting or election day, as applicable. The
2 registration statement may be filed in person, by facsimile, or electronic mail.

3 C. Whoever violates this Section shall be fined one hundred dollars or be
4 imprisoned for ten days, or both, for the first offense. For a second offense, the
5 penalty shall be a fine of two hundred dollars or imprisonment for ten days, or both.
6 For a third or subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of five hundred dollars
7 or imprisonment for ten days, or both.

8 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2022.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 141 Original

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Stagni

Abstract: Requires persons conducting exit polls in or near polling places to register with the secretary of state

Present law (R.S. 18:1462) prohibits various political activities between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., within any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting.

Proposed law retains present law and requires persons conducting exit polls during times and in places covered by present law to register with the secretary of state. Further provides that a violation of proposed law is punishable by a fine or imprisonment for 10 days, or both.

Effective Jan. 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 18:1462.1)