

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 502

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:53(A) and (B)(1) and (2), 55(A)(4)(b), 59(B)(4)(b) and
3 (C)(4)(b), 60, and 134(A) and to enact R.S. 18:58(E), relative to the compensation,
4 evaluation, duties, and removal of registrars of voters; to provide for grounds for
5 removal; to provide for allegations brought by the commissioner of elections; to
6 provide for a firing freeze during the pendency of removal proceedings; to provide
7 for merit evaluations; to provide for office closures; to provide for the performance
8 of duties by the registrar of voters during office closures; to provide for the duty of
9 the registrar to report to the parish governing authority; to provide for effectiveness;
10 and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 18:53(A) and (B)(1) and (2), 55(A)(4)(b), 59(B)(4)(b) and (C)(4)(b),
13 60, and 134(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:58(E) is hereby enacted to
14 read as follows:

15 §53. ~~Tenure; removal~~ Removal from office; may not be own immediate successor

16 A. A registrar shall be subject to removal by the State Board of Election
17 Supervisors for cause for any of the following reasons:

18 (1) Willful ~~willful~~ misconduct relating to his official duty;₂

19 (2) Willful ~~willful~~ and persistent failure to perform his duty;₂

20 (3) Persistent ~~persistent~~ public conduct prejudicial to the administration of
21 the laws relative to the registration of voters that brings the office into disrepute;~~or~~₂

22 (4) Incompetence.

23 (5) Consistent under-performance.

24 (6) Abuse of leave policies established by the secretary of state.

25 (7) Violation of substance abuse policies established by the secretary of
26 state.

1 be evaluated as to merit in January. The merit evaluation shall result in a finding of
 2 "excellent", "successful", "unsuccessful", or "not assessed". The criteria and
 3 procedure for the merit evaluation shall be determined by the Registrar of Voters
 4 Association. It shall provide that each chief deputy will be evaluated by the registrar
 5 of his parish. Upon a finding of "excellent" on a merit evaluation, the chief deputy
 6 shall receive a salary increase to the next step until his salary equals the highest step
 7 of the appropriate population range.

8 C.

9 * * *

10 (4)

11 * * *

12 (b) Each confidential assistant whose salary is at the level of step one or
 13 higher shall be evaluated as to merit in January. The merit evaluation shall result in
 14 a finding of "excellent", "successful", "unsuccessful", or "not assessed". The criteria
 15 and procedure for the merit evaluation shall be determined by the Registrar of Voters
 16 Association. It shall provide that each confidential assistant be evaluated by the
 17 registrar of his parish. Upon a finding of "excellent" on a merit evaluation, the
 18 confidential assistant shall receive a salary increase to the next step until the
 19 confidential assistant's salary is equal to the highest step of the appropriate
 20 population range.

21 * * *

22 §60. Removal of deputies and employees

23 Subject to applicable civil service law, a registrar may remove any ~~deputy,~~
 24 ~~clerk,~~ deputy registrar, confidential assistant, or other employee. However, no
 25 registrar who is subject to removal by the State Board of Election Supervisors
 26 pursuant to R.S. 18:53 may remove a deputy registrar, confidential assistant, or other
 27 employee from the time the registrar is made aware that he is subject to removal until
 28 after the State Board of Election Supervisors makes a final determination on the
 29 removal of the registrar.

30 * * *

1 §134. Office hours

2 A.(1) A registrar shall keep his principal office open for business on those
3 days that state departments are open. A registrar shall observe the holidays that are
4 provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments. On days that
5 a registrar's office is open, his office hours shall be from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
6 Notwithstanding any provision of this Subsection, any registrar may keep his
7 principal office open during additional hours and on additional days.

8 (2) A registrar may close his principal office on days that state departments
9 are open only in extreme circumstances. However, on such days the registrar shall
10 still perform essential functions.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall become effective upon signature by the
13 governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become
14 law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the
15 Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the
16 legislature, the provisions of this Act shall become effective on the day following such
17 approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____