

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 551

BY REPRESENTATIVES BILLINGS AND CHASSION

ELECTIONS/COMMISSIONERS: Provides for early voting commissioners assisting with the nursing home early voting program

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1309(J)(1), relative to use of commissioners by the registrar
3 of voters to assist the registrar during the early voting period; to provide for
4 assistance in conducting the nursing home early voting program; to provide for the
5 duties of the registrar of voters relative to the use of commissioners; to provide for
6 an oath of office to be taken by a commissioner; to provide for an affidavit to be
7 completed by a commissioner; to provide for compensation; and to provide for
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 18:1309(J)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11 §1309. Early voting; verification

12 * * *

13 J.(1) Upon approval of the secretary of state, a registrar of voters may utilize
14 commissioners selected and trained by the registrar of voters to assist the registrar
15 during the early voting period in the conduct of early voting by his office, including
16 conducting the nursing home early voting program pursuant to R.S. 18:1333. A
17 registrar of voters shall, in seeking the approval of the secretary of state, indicate to
18 the secretary the number of commissioners that is required for such assistance. A
19 commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall take an

1 oath of office as a deputy registrar for the early voting period and shall complete an
 2 affidavit prepared by the secretary of state that contains the name, address, and last
 3 four digits of the social security number of the early voting commissioner and an
 4 acknowledgment that the law prohibits the disclosure of confidential voter
 5 information listed in the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar.
 6 The affidavit shall be retained in the office of the registrar of voters. A
 7 commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall be paid
 8 one hundred fifty dollars for each day of such assistance. Commissioners shall also
 9 be paid in accordance with R.S. 18:426.1(B), if applicable.

10 * * *

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 551 Reengrossed 2026 Regular Session Billings

Abstract: Provides for the use of commissioners by the registrar of voters during the early voting period to assist with conducting the nursing home early voting program.

Present law (R.S. 18:1333) provides for the nursing home early voting program. Provides that a person who resides in a nursing home and who is entitled to vote may vote early during the period extending at least two weeks prior to the beginning day for early voting through the last day for early voting established by present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309(J)(1)) provides that, upon approval of the secretary of state, a registrar of voters may utilize commissioners selected and trained by the registrar of voters to assist the registrar during early voting period in the conduct of early voting by his office. Provides that a registrar of voters shall, in seeking the approval of the secretary of state, indicate to the secretary the number of commissioners that is required for such assistance. Provides a commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall take an oath of office as a deputy registrar for the early voting period and shall complete an affidavit prepared by the secretary of state that contains the name, address, and last four digits of the social security number of the early voting commissioner and an acknowledgment that the law prohibits the disclosure of confidential voter information listed in the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar. Provides that a commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall be paid \$150 for each day of such assistance.

Proposed law retains present law and specifies that present law includes conducting the nursing home early voting program.

Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:1309(J)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that present law includes conducting the nursing home early voting program.
2. Make technical changes.