

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 847

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

DISTRICTS/WATER CONSERVN: Provides for the election, duties, and requirements of district supervisors of the soil and water conservation commission

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G) and to enact R.S. 3:1206(C),
3 relative to the election of district supervisors for the state soil and water conservation
4 commission; to establish the method and administration of elections; to provide for
5 supervisor terms, the filling of vacancies, and eligibility requirements for
6 reappointment or reelection; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 and R.S. 3:1206(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1206. Election of three supervisors for each district

11 A. Within thirty days after the date of issuance by the secretary of state of
12 a certificate of organization of a soil and water conservation district, nomination
13 petitions may be filed with the state soil and water conservation commission to
14 nominate candidates for supervisors of the district. The commission shall have
15 authority to extend the time within which nominating petitions may be filed. No
16 nominating petition shall be accepted by the board, unless ~~it shall be~~ the registrar of
17 voters in the parish where the signers reside has certified, pursuant to R.S. 18:3, that
18 the petition has been subscribed by twenty-five or more qualified voters within the
19 district, ~~who are qualified to vote under the constitution and law of this state.~~

20 Qualified voters may sign more than one such nominating petition to nominate more

1 than one candidate for supervisor. ~~The commission shall give due notice of an~~
 2 ~~election to be held for the election of three supervisors for the district.~~ The names
 3 of all nominees on behalf of whom nominating petitions have been filed within the
 4 time ~~herein~~ designated in this Subsection shall be ~~printed, arranged in the~~
 5 ~~alphabetical order of the surnames, upon ballots, with a square before each name and~~
 6 ~~a direction to insert an X mark in the square before any three names to indicate the~~
 7 ~~voter's preference.~~ All qualified voters within the district who are qualified to vote
 8 ~~under the constitution and laws of this state shall be eligible to vote in the election.~~
 9 ~~Only qualified voters shall be eligible to vote.~~ submitted to the secretary of state as
 10 candidates in an election to be held by the secretary of state as a private election.
 11 The three candidates who shall receive the largest number, respectively, of the votes
 12 cast in ~~such~~ the election shall be the elected supervisors for ~~such~~ the district. The
 13 ~~state commission shall pay all the expenses of such election, shall supervise the~~
 14 ~~conduct thereof, shall prescribe regulations governing the conduct of such election,~~
 15 ~~and shall publish the results thereof.~~

* * *

17 C. The secretary of state and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry
 18 may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the intent and
 19 purposes of this Section.

20 §1207. Appointment, qualifications, tenure of supervisors

* * *

22 C. The three elected supervisors of the district shall be elected annually, one
 23 each year. ~~These elections of supervisors shall be held throughout the state~~
 24 ~~regularly on the second Saturday in June, each year, in accordance with the general~~
 25 ~~procedure and in the manner prescribed in R.S. 3:1206.~~ Terms of office of all
 26 supervisors so elected shall begin on July ~~1st~~ first, following the date of their
 27 election. ~~All supervisors presently in office and serving on the governing body of~~
 28 ~~a conservation district, shall remain in office until their terms expire, but from and~~
 29 ~~after August 1st, 1956, all vacancies shall be filled in the manner above prescribed,~~

supervisors remain in office until their terms expire. Further requires that all vacancies and expired terms be filled by an election held on the second Saturday in June after the term expires.

Proposed law modifies present law removing the requirement that the district supervisors be elected each year on the second Saturday in June. Further removes the requirement that current supervisors remain in office until their terms expire and that vacancies and expired terms be filled by elections held on the second Saturday in June.

Present law provides for the removal of a supervisor for neglect of duty or malfeasance. Prohibits reappointment or reelection of a supervisor unless they have attended at least two-thirds of scheduled district meetings. Authorizes the commission to waive this condition for good cause.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that the condition be met within a 12-month period.

(Amends R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G); Adds R.S. 3:1206(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill:

1. Prohibit any nominating petition from being accepted by the board unless the registrar of voters in the parish where the signers reside has certified that the petition has been subscribed by 25 or more qualified voters.
2. Remove the clarification that the voters within the district are those qualified to vote under the constitution and law of this state.
3. Require that the names of all nominees be submitted to the secretary of state as candidates in an election to be held by the secretary of state as a private election.
4. Remove the requirement that elections be conducted by the secretary of state.
5. Remove the requirement that the elections be held throughout the state on the second Saturday of June, each year.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.