
DIGEST

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HB 211 Original

2018 Regular Session

Jackson

Abstract: Requires the registrar of voters to make lists of early and absentee by mail voters available for public inspection instead of requiring the registrar to post the lists at the entrance to his office; requires the lists to be posted on the website of the secretary of state; and repeals the requirement that a certain number of voters make a written request in order to copy the lists.

Present law (R.S. 18:1311) requires the registrar of voters to keep a list containing the names of all persons who vote by early voting ballot during early voting and those whose absentee ballots by mail he has received. Requires the registrar, after the last day for early voting, to prepare a list, arranged alphabetically by precinct, of the names of all persons who have voted during early voting or from whom absentee ballots by mail were received on or before the last day for early voting. Requires the registrar to retain a copy of the list for use by the parish board of election supervisors on election night.

Present law requires the registrar to prepare a supplemental list, arranged alphabetically by precinct, of the names of all persons from whom absentee ballots by mail have been received after the last day for early voting and before election day. Requires the registrar to deliver the supplemental list for each precinct to the parish custodian who then delivers the supplemental list for each precinct to the deputy parish custodian appointed for that precinct. Requires the registrar to retain a copy of the supplemental list for use by the parish board of election supervisors on election night.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the registrar to post a copy of each list in a conspicuous place accessible to the public at the entrance to his office.

Proposed law repeals present law. Provides instead that the registrar ensure that each list is available for inspection by members of the public at the principal office of the registrar when the office is open. Additionally requires the lists to be posted on the website of the secretary of state at least until the election returns have been promulgated.

Present law (R.S. 18:154) provides that the records of each registrar are public records and at all times during office hours shall be open to inspection, except the early voting confirmation sheets of voters.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the registrar to allow his records to be copied only when 25 or more qualified voters make a request in writing. Provides that if such copying would seriously interfere with the registration of voters or the performance of his duties, the registrar shall cause his employees to make copies of the requested records or print the information electronically, if the electronic copy contains the same information, and deliver them to the voters or request the secretary of state to reproduce such records which may then be forwarded to the registrar for delivery to the voters. Provides that copying by the registrar or his employees or the secretary of state or printing an electronic copy shall be done in the presence of a representative of the requesting voters, if they so request.

Proposed law requires the registrar to permit the copying of lists of early and absentee by mail voters prepared pursuant to present law (R.S. 18:1311) upon the request of a single person of the age of majority instead of 25 or more qualified voters. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:154(B) and 1311(B), (C), and (E); Adds R.S. 18:1311(A))