
DIGEST

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HB 795 Original

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Abstract: Changes the general close of registration records from 30 days prior to the election to 20 days prior to the election and from 20 days prior to the election to 7 days prior to the election for certain people who register to vote online or in person in the office of the registrar.

Present law (R.S. 18:521) provides that all persons who have registered to vote prior to the time the registration records are closed as required in present law (R.S. 18:135) may vote in the election for any candidates except those seeking membership on a committee of a political party with which the voter is not registered as being affiliated.

Present law (R.S. 18:103) provides that a person who meets the qualifications for voter registration may apply in person at the office of the registrar, using the federal postcard application, through the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, through designated voter registration agencies, and through the mail using certain forms.

Present law (R.S. 18:115.1) additionally provides that a person who has a valid La. driver's license or La. special identification card may apply to register to vote or make changes to his existing registration by completing and submitting an electronic voter registration application on the secretary of state's website. Provides for the content of the electronic voter registration application. Provides for immediate verification of the driver's license number or special identification card number submitted by the applicant. Provides that if a verification is made, the secretary of state shall electronically forward the information provided in the application to the appropriate registrar of voters to determine the eligibility of the applicant in accordance with present law and to immediately inform the applicant.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:135) generally requires the registrar to close the registration records 30 days prior to an election, unless the deadline falls on a legal holiday, in which case the deadline is moved to the next day that is not a holiday. Provides that the registration records may be closed at a later time under certain circumstances involving emergencies.

Proposed law changes the general close of registration records from 30 days prior to the election to 20 days prior to the election. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that for a person who registers online pursuant to present law (R.S. 18:115.1), the registration records close 20 days prior to the election.

Proposed law changes the close of registration records for people who register online from 20 days prior to the election to seven days prior to the election. Additionally provides that the registration records close seven days prior to the election for a person who has a valid La. driver's license or La. special identification card and who makes application in person at the office of the registrar.

Present law (R.S. 18:157) requires the registrar, prior to an election, to deliver a precinct register to each precinct in the parish that is involved in the election. Requires the precinct register to include the official list of voters and the inactive list of voters in each precinct. Present law (R.S. 18:562 and 1309) requires election officials during early voting and on election day to attempt to establish the identity of each voter by matching identifying information presented by the voter with information in the precinct register (during early voting, officials also use the state voter registration computer system for verification).

Present law (R.S. 18:152) requires the registrar, prior to delivery of the precinct register, to add the names and collateral information on those mail registrants and online registrants that were verified after the printing of the precinct register. Provides that such listing of registrants shall be considered to be a supplement to the official list of voters and a part of the precinct register. Requires the registrar, subsequent to the delivery of the precinct register, to add the names and collateral information on those mail registrants and online registrants that were verified after the delivery of the precinct register. Provides that such listing of registrants shall be considered another supplement to the official list of voters and a part of the precinct register. Provides that any supplemental list so produced shall be delivered to the precinct in the same manner as a list of absentee voters who voted absentee by mail and whose ballots were received after the precinct register was sealed.

Proposed law removes references to mail and online registrants and instead requires the registrar to supplement the official list of voters in the precinct register with the names and collateral information for all registrants who were verified after the printing or delivery of the precinct register, including those in present law and proposed law. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309) provides relative to early voting application and early voting. Provides that the early voting period for conducting early voting is the period from 14 days prior to the election to seven days prior to the election. Provides procedures and requirements. Requires the registrar during the early voting period to maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mon. through Sat. to allow for early voting to be conducted.

Present law (R.S. 18:101.1) provides for the verification of registration information provided by an applicant. Provides that for applicants who have a La. driver's license or La. special identification card, the registration information provided by the applicant shall be verified to ensure that the driver's license number or special identification card number provided by the applicant matches the information maintained by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections. Provides that if a match is made, the registrar of voters shall add the applicant to the official list of voters and the registrar shall send a notice of registration to the applicant. Provides that if a match cannot be made, the registrar of voters shall notify the applicant in writing and inform him that he has ten days from the date on which the verification letter was mailed to respond to the verification letter.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that a person who has a valid La. driver's license or La. special identification card may apply to register to vote or to make changes to his existing registration on the same day that the person seeks to vote during early voting by making application in person at the office of the registrar where he is qualified to vote during early voting. Provides that upon submission of the application, the registrar shall determine whether the applicant meets the requirements for registration pursuant to present law. Provides that if the registrar adds the applicant to the official list of voters or makes a change in the applicant's existing registration and determines that the applicant is qualified to vote during early voting at the office of the registrar, the applicant may vote in accordance with the provisions of present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:115(E)(1), 135(A)(1) and (3), and 152(C)(2)(b); Adds R.S. 18:1309(N))