

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 351

BY REPRESENTATIVE JENKINS

VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to voting by persons in a nursing home

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1333(C)(2) and (D), relative to the nursing home early voting
3 program; to provide relative to the requirements for eligibility to participate in the
4 program; to provide relative to the requirements for making application to participate
5 in the program; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1333(C)(2) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8 follows:

9 §1333. Nursing home early voting program; voting by persons residing in a nursing
10 home

11 * * *

12 C. The following voters shall be eligible to vote pursuant to this Section:

13 * * *

14 (2) A voter who is a resident of a nursing home who provides to the registrar
15 of voters ~~current proof of disability from a physician along with a certification from~~
16 ~~the physician~~ voter which indicates that ~~by reason of the voter's disability~~ the voter
17 is a resident of the nursing home and unable to appear in person to vote either during
18 early voting or at the polling place on election day.

19 D.(1) A voter qualified to vote under this Section shall make application in
20 writing to vote pursuant to this Section to the registrar of voters ~~by letter~~. An

each nursing home in the parish where voters eligible to vote pursuant to present law reside to assist them in voting by mail.

Present law provides that a voter who participated in the former Special Program for Handicapped Voters as such program existed prior to Jan. 1, 2010, and who is a resident or has become a resident of a nursing home is eligible to participate in the program.

Present law additionally provides that a voter is eligible to participate in the program if the voter resides in a nursing home and provides to the registrar of voters current proof of disability from a physician along with a certification from the physician that the voter is unable to appear in person to vote either during early voting or at the polling place.

Proposed law repeals the requirement to submit proof of disability and a certification from a physician. Instead provides that a voter is eligible to participate in the program if the voter certifies that he is a resident of the nursing home and that he is unable to appear in person to vote either during early voting or at the polling place.

Present law requires an eligible voter to make written application to the registrar of voters prior to participating in the program. Provides requirements for the application and deadlines.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that application is made by letter and refers to the letter as a request.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective January 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 18:1333(C)(2) and (D))