

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVES BACALA, BOURRIAQUE, HORTON, IVEY, JENKINS,
LARVADAIN, MIGUEZ, JAY MORRIS, AND PUGH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VOTERS/VOTING: Provides that a U.S. military identification card may be used at the
polls for voting purposes

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:562(A)(2) and (C) and 1309(D)(1), relative to voting; to
3 provide relative to procedures for identifying voters at the polls; to provide for the
4 forms of identification required for voting; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:562(A)(2) and (C) and 1309(D)(1) are hereby amended and
7 reenacted to read as follows:

8 §562. Prerequisites to voting

9 A. Identification of voters.

10 * * *

11 (2)(a) Each applicant shall identify himself, in the presence and view of the
12 bystanders, and present to the commissioners a one of the following:

13 (i) A Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana special identification card issued
14 pursuant to R.S. 40:1321, or other generally recognized picture identification card
15 that contains the name and signature of the applicant.

16 (ii) A United States military identification card that contains the applicant's
17 name and picture.

18 (b) If the applicant does not have a ~~Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana~~
19 ~~special identification card, or other generally recognized picture identification card~~

1 ~~that contains the name and signature of the applicant~~ one of the forms of
2 identification provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the applicant shall
3 complete and sign an affidavit, which is supplied by the secretary of state, to that
4 effect before the commissioners, which affidavit shall include the applicant's date of
5 birth and mother's maiden name. If the applicant is unable to read or write or is
6 otherwise unable to complete the affidavit due to disability, the applicant may
7 receive assistance in completing the affidavit and the commissioner shall make a
8 notation on the affidavit. The applicant may receive the assistance of any person of
9 his choice, including a commissioner, except a candidate, commissioner-in-charge,
10 the applicant's employer or employer's agent, or the applicant's union agent. The
11 commissioners shall place the affidavit in the envelope marked "Registrar of Voters"
12 and attach the envelope to the precinct register. However, an applicant who is
13 allowed to vote without the picture identification required by Subparagraph (a) of
14 this Paragraph is subject to challenge as provided in R.S. 18:565.

* * *

15
16 C. Handwritten signature of the applicant. If the applicant is able to sign his
17 name, he shall sign his handwritten signature in ink in the space for his signature on
18 the precinct register. When the applicant has submitted to the commissioners picture
19 identification that contains the signature of the applicant ~~to the commissioners~~, the
20 applicant's signature shall be compared to his signature on the picture identification.
21 If the applicant is unable to sign his name, he shall make his mark in ink in the
22 proper space on the precinct register.

* * *

23
24 §1309. Early voting; verification

* * *

25
26 D.(1)(a) Before any voter is allowed to vote during early voting, the registrar
27 or his deputy shall establish the voter's identity by requiring him to submit a one of
28 the following:

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 30 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Bacala

Abstract: Provides that a U.S. military identification card that contains the person's name and picture may be used at the polls to vote.

Present law (R.S. 18:562 and 1309) requires election officials to establish the identity of a person who seeks to vote at a polling place during early voting or on election day. Requires the person to present a La. driver's license, a La. special identification card issued pursuant to present law (R.S. 40:1321), or other generally recognized picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the person.

Proposed law retains present law. Adds to the acceptable forms of identification a U.S. military identification card that contains the person's name and picture.

Present law provides that if the person does not have such identification, the person shall complete and sign an affidavit, which is supplied by the secretary of state, to that effect before the commissioners. Provides that a person who votes without the required identification is subject to challenge pursuant to present law (R.S. 18:565 and 1315).

Proposed law retains present law.

Effective Jan. 1, 2020.

(Amends R.S. 18:562(A)(2) and (C) and 1309(D)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Provide that proposed law is effective Jan. 1, 2020.