

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 183

BY SENATOR HARRIS

ELECTION DAYS. Authorizes clerks of court to have law enforcement officers at polling places on election day to enforce law and authorizes law enforcement officers to enter voting location in an emergency. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:428(A) and (F), and to enact R.S. 18:428(G) and 1309(A)(5);
3 relative to law enforcement assistance at polling places under certain circumstances;
4 to provide for law enforcement officers to assist in preserving order; to provide for
5 the protection of election officials; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:428(A) and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted and
8 R.S. 18:428(G) and 1309(A)(5) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §428. Law enforcement assistance to commissioners

10 A. Presence at polling places on election day. Law enforcement officers shall
11 not be stationed at polling places on election day, but the commissioners or the clerk
12 of court may summon law enforcement officers to assist them in preserving order,
13 enforcing the election laws, or protecting election officials from interference with the
14 performance of their duties. Law enforcement officers shall not be eligible to serve
15 as commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, alternate commissioners, or watchers.

16 * * *

17 F. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, law

emergency and the commissioners are unable to summon the law enforcement officers.

Present law provides that the registrar may use law enforcement officers to maintain order at any location where early voting is conducted.

Proposed law retains present law and allows law enforcement officers to enter the early voting location when there is a reasonable belief there is an emergency and the registrar is unable to summon the law enforcement officers.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 18:428(A) and (F); adds R.S. 18:428(G) and 1309(A)(5))