
DIGEST

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HB 388 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Harris

Abstract: Provides a longer period of time for a parish to prepare and verify absentee by mail and early voting ballots before election day

Present law provides that parishes with 1,000 or more absentee by mail ballots returned to the registrar of voters for a primary or general election may conduct the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots the day before the election and conduct the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day.

Proposed law allows any parish, with written approval of the secretary of state, to conduct the preparation and verification of absentee by mail and early voting ballots beginning three days before the election day. Otherwise retains present law and makes it applicable to all parishes.

Present law (R.S. 18:1313.2) provides relative to elections impaired as the result of a declared disaster or emergency and allows the preparation and verification process to begin four days before election day. Provides that present law shall be void and of no effect on Aug. 1, 2021.

Proposed law repeals present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:423(J), 1313.1(A), (B), (C)(1), (E), and (G)(intro. para.), (6), and (7), and 1315(B); Repeals R.S. 18:1313.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Regarding the time frame during which a parish may conduct the preparation and verification of absentee by mail and early voting ballots:
 - a. Change the maximum period from four days to three days, if the maximum is approved by the secretary of state.
 - b. Provide that present law is applicable to all parishes unless the maximum period is approved.