

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 35

BY REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) and to enact R.S. 18:192.1, relative to the
3 annual canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide for a supplemental annual
4 canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide relative to an inactive list of voters;
5 to provide for updating voter registration information; to provide for an effective
6 date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
9 18:192.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §192.1. Supplemental annual canvass

11 A. Each year, once the registrars have sent address confirmation cards as set
12 forth in R.S. 18:192(A)(2), the Department of State shall conduct the supplemental
13 annual canvass set forth in this Section.

14 B. The purpose of the supplemental annual canvass is to identify other
15 registrants who have moved and need to update their voter registration records to
16 reflect their current addresses.

17 C. The secretary of state shall identify, from information available in the
18 state voter registration computer system, registrants to whom all the following apply:

19 (1) The registrant's name did not appear with a corrected address provided
20 by the United States Postal Service or its licensee under R.S. 18:192(A)(1)(b).

1 (2) The registrant has not voted in an election in the past ten years.

2 (3) The registrant failed to engage in any of the following activities in the
3 past ten years: make an application for voter registration; receive an absentee ballot;
4 validly sign a petition submitted to the registrar of voters for certification pursuant
5 to law; change a name, address, or party affiliation or nonaffiliation; make any other
6 change in registration; or participate in the nursing home program.

7 D. The Department of State shall send to the registrants so identified a
8 "supplemental address confirmation card" and place the registrant on the inactive list
9 of voters.

10 E. For the purposes of this Section, "supplemental address confirmation
11 card" means a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card, sent by forwardable
12 mail. The Department of State is responsible for developing the supplemental
13 address confirmation card and shall submit it to the House Committee on House and
14 Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental
15 Affairs for review. The department is also responsible for informing the registrant
16 about his voting rights under the supplemental address confirmation process.

17 F. If a registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation card and
18 has not moved or has moved within the parish, the registrar shall remove the
19 registrant's name from the inactive list of voters if it is on the inactive list and correct
20 the registrant's address if necessary.

21 G.(1) If a registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation card
22 and has permanently moved to a different parish, the registrar shall transfer the
23 registrant's registration information to the parish of residence.

24 (2) If a registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation card
25 and has permanently moved outside the state, the registrar shall cancel the
26 registrant's registration.

27 H. A registrant on the inactive list of voters who fails to respond to the
28 supplemental address confirmation card shall remain on the inactive list of voters
29 until his address is confirmed in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.S.

1 18:196 or not later than a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections,
2 at which time the registrar shall cancel the registrant's registration.

3 I. A list of names and addresses to whom supplemental address confirmation
4 cards are sent and whether or not each registrant responded to the confirmation card
5 shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection and
6 copying as provided in R.S. 18:154. Ninety days prior to a regularly scheduled
7 federal primary election, the names and addresses of those registrants on the inactive
8 list shall be published for one day in the official journal of the parish governing
9 authority or in a newspaper calculated to provide maximum notice in the parish.

10 * * *

11 §196. Inactive list of voters; procedure for voting

12 A.(1) In addition to the official list of voters, there shall be an inactive list
13 of voters which shall consist of registrants who have been mailed an address
14 confirmation or a supplemental address confirmation card. The names of registrants
15 on the inactive list of voters shall not be counted in computing the number of ballots
16 required for an election, the number of voters required to divide or constitute a
17 precinct, the number of signatures required on any petition, the number of
18 commissioners at a precinct pursuant to R.S. 18:425, the number of voting machines
19 to be allocated and used in each voting precinct pursuant to R.S. 18:1363, or the
20 number of registered voters necessary to recognize or determine the organization of
21 a political party or committee.

22 * * *

23 D. If a registrant who has failed to respond to an address confirmation card
24 or a supplemental address confirmation card and whose name appears on the inactive
25 list of voters does not vote in any election from the date he is placed on the inactive
26 list of voters until the day after the second regularly scheduled general election for
27 federal office held after such date, the registrar shall cancel the registration of the
28 registrant.

29 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on March 31, 2023.

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 35 Original

2022 Regular Session

Farnum

Abstract: Requires a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.

Present law (R.S. 18:192) requires each registrar of voters to annually canvass the names of persons registered to vote. Provides procedures for verifying the names and addresses of such registrants. Provides procedures and requirements for correction and cancellation of registrations in conjunction with the canvass. Provides that the registrar of voters shall annually canvass the names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish no later than June.

Proposed law retains present law and requires each registrar of voters to annually conduct a supplemental canvass to identify voters who have moved and need to update their voter registration to their current addresses. Provides procedures for identifying such registrants, including mailing address confirmation cards. Further provides that such registrants shall be placed on the inactive list of voters until the registrant confirms that the address on the confirmation card is correct. Provides that the registrar shall transfer the voter's registration information to the parish of residence if the voter has permanently moved to a different parish. Provides that the registrar shall cancel the voter's registration if the voter has permanently moved to a different state.

Proposed law provides that a voter's registration shall be canceled after a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections if the voter fails to respond to the confirmation card. Further provides that a list of names and addresses to whom confirmation cards are sent and whether or not each person responded to the confirmation card shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection.

Proposed law requires biannual publication of the list of inactive voters in a newspaper.

Effective March 31, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D); Adds R.S. 18:192.1)