

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 144

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS

VOTERS/VOTING. Provides relative to hand delivery of absentee by mail ballots. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1308(B), relative to elections; to provide for hand delivery
3 of absentee by mail ballots; to provide for the manner, location, and time periods for
4 receiving hand delivered ballots; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:1308(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §1308. Absentee voting by mail

8 * * *

9 B.(1) The ballot shall be marked as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and returned to
10 the registrar by the United States Postal Service, a commercial courier, or hand
11 delivery. If delivered by other than the voter, a commercial courier, or the United
12 States Postal Service, the registrar shall require that the person making such delivery
13 sign a statement, prepared by the secretary of state, certifying that he has the
14 authorization and consent of the voter to hand deliver the marked ballot. For
15 purposes of this Subsection, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as
16 provided in R.S. 13:3204(D). No person except the immediate family of the voter,
17 as defined in this Code, shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot per election

1 to the registrar. Upon its receipt, the registrar shall post the name and precinct of the
2 voter as required by R.S. 18:1311.

3 **(2) If the ballot is hand delivered, the voter or person authorized by the**
4 **voter pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall deliver the absentee**
5 **ballot to the registrar or to an employee of the registrar at one of the following**
6 **locations:**

7 **(a) The registrar's principal office, as long as the absentee by mail ballot**
8 **is returned during the time period set forth in Subsection C of this Section.**

9 **(b) The registrar's branch office, as long as the absentee by mail ballot**
10 **is returned during the time period set forth in Subsection C of this Section.**

11 **(c) An early voting location in the parish in which the voter is registered**
12 **to vote, as long as the ballot is returned during the applicable period of time set**
13 **forth for early voting in R.S. 18:1309.**

14 * * *

15 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
19 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument was prepared by Carla S. Roberts. The following
digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was
prepared by Cathy R. Wells.

DIGEST

SB 144 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Robert Mills

Present law provides that any voter may vote at an early voting site in a parish where the voter is registered to vote.

Present law provides that, under certain circumstances, a voter may request an absentee by mail ballot and vote prior to election day. Present law requires an absentee by mail ballot to be marked as provided in present law and returned to the registrar by commercial courier, by the United States Postal Service, or hand delivery.

Proposed law retains present law and requires a hand delivered absentee ballot to be returned by the voter or a person authorized by the voter to the registrar or an employee of the registrar at one of the following locations:

- (1) To the registrar's principal office or branch office.
- (2) To an early voting location during the time period set forth for early voting.

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

(Amends R.S. 18:1308(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Makes technical corrections.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Requires a hand delivered absentee ballot to be returned by the voter or a person authorized by the voter.