

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 357

BY REPRESENTATIVE JENKINS

ELECTIONS/POLLING PLACES: Provides relative to polling places

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:534(B)(2)(a) and (c), relative to changing polling places in  
3 a period prior to an election; to provide relative to the authority to change the  
4 location of polling places; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related  
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:534(B)(2)(a) and (c) are hereby amended and reenacted to read  
8 as follows:

9 §534. Change of polling places

10 \* \* \*

11 B.

12 \* \* \*

13 (2)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection A of this Section, if a  
14 polling place becomes unavailable during the period defined in and due to the  
15 reasons provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection ~~and there is no regularly~~  
16 ~~scheduled meeting of the parish governing authority scheduled to take place prior to~~  
17 ~~the election~~, the parish president may change the location of the polling place. The  
18 parish president shall submit written notice of the change as soon as practicable to  
19 the secretary of state.

20 \* \* \*

1 (c) For purposes of this Paragraph, "parish president" means the president  
2 of any parish, mayor-president, mayor of New Orleans, parish administrator of  
3 Caddo Parish, or police jury president.

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## 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)]

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HB 357 Engrossed

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Jenkins

**Abstract:** Provides relative to changing polling places in the time period leading up to an election.

Present law generally requires a vote of the parish governing authority to change the location of an established polling place.

Present law prohibits changing the location of a polling place from the date the qualifying period opens until the general election unless the polling place becomes unavailable due to an emergency caused by an act of God or when privately owned property being used as a polling place becomes unavailable through no fault of the governing authority. If a polling place becomes unavailable during the specified period for one of the specified reasons and there will not be a regularly scheduled meeting of the parish governing authority prior to the election, present law authorizes the parish president to change the location of the polling place. Requires the parish president to submit written notice of the change to the secretary of state.

Proposed law retains present law except to remove the stipulation that the president's authority to change the location of the polling place is contingent on there being no regularly scheduled meeting of the parish governing authority prior to the election.

(Amends R.S. 18:534(B)(2)(a) and (c))