SLS 23RS-144 **ORIGINAL**

2023 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 23

BY SENATOR BERNARD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VOTERS/VOTING. Requires approval by the secretary of state for the use and expands permissible locations of alternative locations for early voting. (8/1/23)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1309(A)(2), relative to early voting locations; to require approval by the secretary of state; to provide for location requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1309(A)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1309. Early voting; verification

A. * * *

* * *

(2) During the early voting period, the registrar shall maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Early voting on each day of the early voting period shall terminate when all persons who were in line to vote at the close of the regular office hours of the registrar's office, as provided in this Paragraph, have been allowed to vote. If **the secretary of state determines** the office space of the registrar is insufficient or inconvenient to accommodate early voting, the registrar may provide for an alternate location to conduct early voting, which location shall be in ~~the courthouse or in a public~~

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~~building in the immediate vicinity thereof~~ **an accessible and conveniently located public facility within the parish**, and in such case, adequate notice shall be posted at the registrar's office informing the public of the location where early voting is being conducted.

* * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SB 23 Original 2023 Regular Session Bernard

Present law allows a registrar of voters to provide for an alternate location to conduct early voting if the registrar's office space is insufficient or inconvenient to accommodate voters.

Proposed law requires the secretary of state to determine if the office space of a registrar of voters is insufficient to conduct early voting and use of an alternative early voting location is allowable.

Present law requires an alternate early voting location to be in the courthouse or in a public facility in the immediate vicinity thereof.

Proposed law allows an alternate early voting location to be in an accessible and conveniently located public facility within the parish.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 18:1309(A)(2))

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