
DIGEST

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HB 159 Original

2023 Regular Session

Farnum

Abstract: Requires the Dept. of State to conduct a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.

Present law requires each registrar of voters to conduct an annual canvass of registered voters in order to update voter registration records. Elements of the annual canvass include:

- (1) A requirement that the Dept. of State use the U.S. Postal Service or its licensee to verify names and addresses of registered voters.
- (2) A requirement that the registrar of voters send an address confirmation card to each registrant whose address is not verified or whose corrected address is outside of the parish and place the names of such registrants on the inactive list of voters.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of State to conduct an annual supplemental canvass, after the canvass provided for by present law, in order to update voter registration records. Elements of the supplemental canvass include:

- (1) A requirement that the secretary of state identify registered voters for whom there is not a corrected address pursuant to the initial canvass and who have not participated in an election, updated their registration information, or taken other specified actions in the previous 10 years.
- (2) A requirement that the secretary of state send such persons an address confirmation notice and place the names of such registrants on the inactive list of voters.

Elements of present law, which also apply to proposed law, include:

- (1) A requirement that the registrar transfer the registration information of a voter who has permanently moved to a different parish to the new parish of residence.
- (2) A requirement that the registrar cancel the registration of a voter who has permanently moved outside the state.
- (3) A requirement that the registrar cancel the registration of a voter who is on the inactive list of voters and who fails to confirm his address prior to the second regularly scheduled federal general election after his name is placed on the list.

- (4) A requirement for the publication of the names and addresses of registrants on the inactive list of voters from each parish in the official journal of or other newspaper in the parish 90 days prior to each regularly scheduled federal primary election.
- (5) A requirement that a list of names and addresses of persons to whom confirmation notices are sent and whether or not each person responded to the notice be maintained for a period of two years and be open to inspection.

Effective on March 31, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D); Adds R.S. 18:194)