
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 494 Original

2023 Regular Session

Moore

Abstract: Authorizes a person or organization engaging in lawful nonpartisan activities to remain within a 600 - foot radius of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting.

Present law provides that to preserve the integrity of the election process, and to protect the right of citizens to vote freely for the candidates of their choice, the state has a compelling interest in establishing a zone securing polling locations against certain conduct and activities, including voter intimidation, election, fraud, confusion, and general disorder, that would interfere with the exercise of the right to vote. Further specifically prohibits certain acts between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. within any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting including remaining within any such polling place or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance of any such polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed by an election commissioner, law enforcement officer, registrar, or deputy registrar to leave the premises or area of a polling place.

Proposed law provides an additional exception for engaging in other lawful activities.

Present law provides that the provisions of present law shall not be construed as prohibiting an election commissioner or official watcher from remaining in and about the polling place in which he was selected serve.

Proposed law further provides that the provisions of present law shall not be construed as prohibiting any person or organization from engaging in nonpartisan activities that do not otherwise violate present law, any other state law, or federal law within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting.

(Amends R.S. 18:1462(A)(2) and (C))