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## DIGEST

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HB 506 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Thomas

**Abstract:** Requires individuals and entities intending to conduct a voter registration drive to first register with the secretary of state and to acknowledge the laws relative to voter registration activities including criminal offenses and provides for the related duties of the secretary of state.

Present law provides that the secretary of state shall administer the laws relating to custody of voting machines and voter registration, and for this purpose he shall perform enumerated functions and duties. Present law specifically requires that the secretary of state provide for the voluntary registration of individuals or entities that conduct voter registration drives.

Proposed law provides instead that the secretary of state shall provide for the registration for individuals or entities that conduct voter registration drives. Further requires each individual or entity that is not an election official or voter registration agency that intends to conduct a voter registration drive to first register with the secretary of state either directly or through a registrar of voters in the manner prescribed by the secretary of state. Requires the registration to include an acknowledgment of the requirements applicable to voter registration activities as well as the election offenses applicable to voter registration and voter registration activities.

Present law prohibits a person from knowingly, willfully, or intentionally failing to submit a completed voter registration application collected through a registration drive to the registrar of voters within 30 days of receipt of the completed application from the applicant.

Proposed law changes the time period a person has to submit the completed form to within 30 days of receipt of the completed application from the applicant, or the date provided in present law (R.S. 18:135(A)(1) for the close of registration records prior to an election), whichever occurs first.

Present law provides that a person who violates present law shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or be imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than \$2,500 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. Violations of proposed law are subject to the present law penalties.

(Amends R.S. 18:18(A)(9) and 1461.7(A)(1); Adds R.S. 18:119)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Provide that an individual or entity that conducts voter registration drives may register with the secretary of state either directly or through a registrar of voters.
2. Change the proposed new deadline to submit a completed voter registration application from no later than the day prior to the close of registration records for the first election that occurs after the completed registration application is collected to no later than the date provided in R.S. 18:135(A)(1) for the close of registration records prior to an election.