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DIGEST

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SB 384 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Fields

Present law provides that during the preparation and verification process for counting absentee by mail and early voting ballots, the ballots may be challenged for cause. Further provides that if a challenge for cause is sustained by at least a majority of the members of the parish board of election supervisors, the vote shall not be counted and the board shall write "rejected" and the cause therefore across the ballot envelope or early voting confirmation sheet, the board shall notify the voter within four business days.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the registrar to record the reason for the rejection in the state voter registration system.

Present law provides that the secretary of state shall promulgate and adopt rules as necessary to effectuate uniform and standardized processes for the review and curing or rejection of deficient absentee by mail ballots by the parish board of election of supervisors.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires the secretary to maintain records of all ballots rejected pursuant to present law and include information detailing the total number of ballots rejected per parish and the reasons for their rejection in the post-election statistical data published to the secretary's website.

Effective July 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 18:1315(C)(3)(a) and 1317)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide for an effective date.
3. Require a registrar of voters or his deputy to issue a written explanation for the rejection of an early voting affidavit due to a deficiency.
4. Require the secretary of state to maintain records of all rejected early voting affidavits and include a breakdown of the affidavits rejected by parish and reasons for their rejection in the post-election statistical data published on the secretary of state's website.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove provisions related to the recordation of deficiencies in voter identification affidavits used during early voting.
2. Add the requirement that the registrar record the reason for the rejection of challenged early voting and absentee by mail ballots in certain circumstances.