

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST NO. 2

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for a study of allowing seventeen years olds to vote in state and local elections

1 A CONCURRENT STUDY REQUEST

2 To the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on

3 Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and to function as a joint committee to

4 study allowing seventeen year olds to vote in state and local elections and to report

5 the findings of the joint committee to the legislature prior to March 15, 2025.

6 WHEREAS, Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides every

7 person who is both a citizen of the state and the United States, upon reaching eighteen years

8 of age, shall have the right to register and vote, except that the right may be suspended for

9 a person who is interdicted and judicially declared mentally incompetent or who is under an

10 order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony; and

11 WHEREAS, although the constitutional guarantee of the right to register and vote

12 extends only to those at least eighteen years old, the constitution does not prohibit the

13 legislature from extending the privilege to seventeen year olds for state and local elections;

14 and

15 WHEREAS, the legislature affords a seventeen year old the privilege to register to

16 vote prior to the first election at which he will be eighteen if he is otherwise qualified to vote

17 and authorizes a sixteen or seventeen year old to register when obtaining, renewing, or

18 changing his drivers license; the legislature further authorizes a qualified seventeen year old

19 to serve as an election commissioner; and

20 WHEREAS, at least twenty states currently authorize seventeen year olds who will

21 be eighteen as of the date of the general election to vote in primary elections; and

1           WHEREAS, the legislature requires seventeen year olds to be tried as adults for  
2 crimes; if the legislature views seventeen year olds as adults in the context of criminal  
3 liability, it is appropriate for the legislature to consider authorizing law-abiding seventeen  
4 year olds to vote; and

5           WHEREAS, employed seventeen year olds pay income tax on their earnings and  
6 deserve a voice in how those tax dollars are spent; and

7           WHEREAS, voting encourages civic involvement, which should be fostered as early  
8 as possible, and further incentivizes young people to stay in the state as contributing citizens;  
9 and

10          WHEREAS, measures may be in order to ensure that election databases and systems  
11 are updated to facilitate voting by seventeen year olds and that election commissioners  
12 properly understand the process of allowing seventeen year olds to vote in state and local  
13 elections.

14          THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana requests the House Committee on House  
15 and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs  
16 to meet and to function as a joint committee to study allowing seventeen year olds to vote  
17 in state and local elections and to report the findings of the joint committee to the legislature  
18 prior to March 15, 2025; and

19          THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana requests the joint committee to receive  
20 information and testimony from the Department of State, Voice of the Experienced, the  
21 Urban League of Louisiana, and the Louisiana State Conference of the National Association  
22 for the Advancement of Colored People.

23          THEREFORE, the Legislature of Louisiana further requests that a copy of this study  
24 request be delivered to the Department of State, Voice of the Experienced, the Urban League  
25 of Louisiana, and the Louisiana State Conference of the National Association for the  
26 Advancement of Colored People.

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)]

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2024 Regular Session

Walters

Requests the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to meet and to function as a joint committee to study allowing seventeen year olds to vote in state and local elections and to report the findings of the joint committee to the legislature prior to March 15, 2025.