2024 Regular Session

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 218

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 18:564(B)(5)(b), 1307(B)(1)(a)(i) and (G), 1309.3(B)(4)(b), and
3	1461.7(A)(6) and to enact R.S. 18:1307(J) and (K) and 1461.7(A)(7), relative to
4	voting; to require certain information from persons assisting voters; to prohibit the
5	distribution of unsolicited absentee by mail ballots; to provide for emergency
6	procedure relative to distribution of absentee by mail ballot applications; to provide
7	for election offenses; to provide relative to absentee voting application restrictions;
8	and to provide for related matters.
9	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
10	Section 1. R.S. 18:564(B)(5)(b), 1307(B)(1)(a)(i) and (G), and 1309.3(B)(4)(b) are
11	hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:1307(J) and (K) are hereby enacted to read as
12	follows:
13	§564. Assistance in voting on election day
14	* * *
15	B. Persons prohibited from assisting voters.
16	* * *
17	(5)(a) * * * *
18	(b) The commissioners shall write the voter's name in the precinct register
19	and write The voter, along with the person assisting the voter, shall complete a
20	voter assistance form and provide the name, address, and relationship to the
21	voter of the person, including a commissioner, assisting the voter behind the tab for
22	Assistance to Voters and attest whether the person, other than a commissioner,
23	assisting the voter was paid to provide assistance. If the voter is not marked for
24	assistance in voting in the precinct register, the voter or the person, including a
25	commissioner, assisting the voter shall check the box behind the tab for Assistance
26	to Voters indicating shall attest on the voter assistance form that the voter has a
27	physical disability or is unable to read and requires assistance in voting. The

Page 1 of 4 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

1	person, including a commissioner, assisting the voter shall sign his name behind the
2	tab for Assistance to Voters.
3	* * *
4	§1307. Application by mail
5	* * *
6	B.(1)(a)(i) An application to vote by mail may be delivered to the registrar
7	by any means, including the United States Postal Service, commercial delivery
8	service, hand delivery, or facsimile. No person except the immediate family
9	member of the voter, as defined in this Code, shall submit by any means or send
10	for delivery by the United States Postal Service or commercial courier more
11	than one marked ballot application per election to the registrar of voters.
12	* * *
13	G.(1)(a) If the applicant is eligible to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S.
14	18:1303 (F), (I) , or (J) , his application, if such application meets the requirements of
15	this Section, may remain valid indefinitely upon request of the applicant, unless an.
16	(b) If the applicant is eligible to vote absentee by mail pursuant to R.S.
17	18:1303(F) or (J), his application, if such application meets the requirements of
18	this Section, may remain valid from the date the application is received in the
19	office of the registrar of voters until December thirty-first of the fourth year
20	after the application is received by the registrar. If the applicant's application
21	was received by the office of the registrar of voters before January 1, 2025, his
22	application shall expire December 31, 2029.
23	(2) If an absentee by mail ballot that has been sent to the applicant is returned
24	to the registrar as undeliverable-, the applicant's application shall no longer be
25	valid, and If the applicant's absentee by mail ballot is returned to the registrar as
26	undeliverable, the registrar shall send notice by forwardable mail to such applicant
27	that his application will no longer be valid, and the. The applicant shall be required
28	to submit a new application to the registrar that meets the requirements of this
29	Section and provide a current address before the applicant will be eligible to vote
30	absentee by mail again pursuant to this Section.

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1	* * *
2	J. Except as otherwise authorized by law, no person, organization, or
3	entity shall distribute an application form for an absentee by mail ballot to any
4	person who has not requested the application under the provisions of this
5	Section.
6	K.(1) If a gubernatorially declared state of disaster or emergency occurs
7	within forty-five days of an election, the secretary of state shall determine if the
8	distribution of absentee by mail ballot applications is necessary for voters
9	displaced by the gubernatorially declared state of disaster or emergency.
10	(2) Upon the determination by the secretary of state of the need for the
11	limited distribution of absentee by mail ballot applications, the secretary shall
12	provide notice to the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs
13	and the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs within ten days
14	of the distribution.
15	* * *
16	§1309.3. Assistance in voting during early voting
17	* * *
18	B. Persons prohibited from assisting voters during early voting.
19	* * *
20	(4) * * *
21	(b) The registrar or deputy registrar shall write the voter's name in the
22	precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar and The voter, along with
23	the person assisting the voter, shall complete a voter assistance form and
24	provide the name of the person assisting the voter behind the tab for Assistance to
25	Voters and attest whether the person, other than a commissioner, providing
26	assistance was paid to assist the voter. If the voter is not marked for assistance
27	in voting in the statewide voter registration database, the voter shall attest on
28	the voter assistance form that the voter has a physical disability or is unable to
29	read and requires assistance in voting. The person assisting the voter, including
30	a registrar or deputy registrar, shall sign his name behind the tab for Assistance to

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1	Voters.
2	* * *
3	Section 2. R.S. 18:1461.7(A)(6) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
4	18:1461.7(A)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
5	§1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties
6	A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:
7	* * *
8	(6) Facilitate the distribution and collection of absentee by mail ballot
9	applications or absentee by mail ballots in violation of this Title.
10	(6)(7) Breach any mandatory provision of this Title.
11	* * *
12	Section 3.(A) Section 1 of this Act shall become effective January 1, 2025.
13	(B) Section 2 and this Section of this Act shall become effective upon signature of
14	this Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for
15	bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section
16	18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor and subsequently
17	approved by the legislature, Section 2 and this Section of this Act shall become effective on
18	the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____