

SENATE BILL NO. 155

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1310(C)(1) and 1333(B) and to enact R.S. 18:4 and
3 1461.7(A)(7), relative to marking of absentee by mail ballots; to provide for witness
4 certification requirements; to provide for the crime of violating restrictions on
5 witnessing absentee ballot certificates; to provide for the nursing home early voting
6 program; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:1310(C)(1) and 1333(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 §1310. Execution of certificate; marking of ballot; casting vote; assistance

11 * * *

12 C.(1) Any person who assists a voter in voting absentee by mail shall execute
13 the acknowledgment on the certificate prepared by the secretary of state, verifying
14 that the person providing the assistance has marked the ballot in the manner dictated
15 by the voter, and the signature on the acknowledgment by the person providing
16 assistance may serve as the signature of the witness required by R.S.
17 18:1306(E)(2)(a). **No person except the immediate family member of the voter,**
18 **as defined in this Code, or an employee of the registrar of voters or the election**
19 **division of the Department of State shall assist with the certificate of more than**
20 **one voter.**

21 * * *

22 §1333. Nursing home early voting program; voting by persons residing in a nursing
23 home

24 * * *

25 B. A qualified voter who resides in a nursing home within the parish in which
26 he is entitled to vote may vote early as provided in this Section during the period
27 extending at least ~~one week~~ **two weeks** prior to the beginning day for early voting

1 through the last day for early voting established by R.S. 18:1309.

2 * * *

3 Section 2. R.S. 18:4 and 1461.7(A)(7) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

4 §4. Witness requirements

5 A. Whenever a document required by or provided for in the Louisiana
6 Election Code is required to be witnessed, the witness shall be at least eighteen
7 years of age.

8 B. Each witness who signs an absentee by mail ballot certificate as
9 required by the Louisiana Election Code shall provide his mailing address in the
10 appropriate space on the certificate.

11 * * *

12 §1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

13 A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

14 * * *

15 (7) Witness the certificate of more than one voter who is not an
16 immediate family member in violation of R.S. 18:1306.

17 * * *

18 Section 3.(A) The provisions of this Section and of Section 1 of this Act shall
19 become effective on August 1, 2024.

20 (B) The provisions of Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____