
DIGEST

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HB 847 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Butler

Abstract: Transfers election oversight of district supervisors to the secretary of state. Modifies election requirements, supervisor terms, vacancy procedures, and attendance requirements for reappointment or reelection of district supervisors.

Present law authorizes the filing of nomination petitions within 30 days of forming a soil and water conservation district to elect three supervisors. Requires that petitions be subscribed by 25 or more qualified voters. Authorizes the commission to extend the filing period, provide notice of an election, supervise and fund the election, and publish the results. Requires that ballots list nominees alphabetically with a square to mark up to three candidates. Further provides that only qualified voters in the district may vote and the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected as district supervisors.

Proposed law modifies present law by prohibiting any nominating petition from being accepted by the board unless the registrar of voters in the parish where the signers reside has certified that the petition has been subscribed by 25 or more qualified voters. Further changes the method of listing nominees from being printed on ballots for voter selection to being submitted to the secretary of state, and removing provisions governing ballot format and voter eligibility for the election. Requires that names of nominees be submitted to the secretary of state as candidates in an election to be held by the secretary of state as a private election. Removes provisions requiring the state commission to fund and supervise the election, prescribe election regulations, and publish the election results and the requirement that the commission provide notice of the election.

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of state and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry to adopt rules and regulations to implement the intent and purpose of proposed law.

Present law requires that the district supervisors be elected each year on the second Saturday in June, with terms beginning July 1st following the election. Vacancies and expiring terms are filled by elections held on the second Saturday in June after the term expires, and current supervisors remain in office until their terms expire. Further requires that all vacancies and expired terms be filled by an election held on the second Saturday in June after the term expires.

Proposed law modifies present law removing the requirement that the district supervisors be elected each year on the second Saturday in June. Further removes the requirement that current supervisors remain in office until their terms expire and that vacancies and expired terms be filled by elections held on the second Saturday in June.

Present law provides for the removal of a supervisor for neglect of duty or malfeasance. Prohibits reappointment or reelection of a supervisor unless they have attended at least two-thirds of scheduled district meetings. Authorizes the commission to waive this condition for good cause.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that the condition be met within a 12-month period.

(Amends R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G); Adds R.S. 3:1206(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill:

1. Prohibit any nominating petition from being accepted by the board unless the registrar of voters in the parish where the signers reside has certified that the petition has been subscribed by 25 or more qualified voters.
2. Remove the clarification that the voters within the district are those qualified to vote under the constitution and law of this state.
3. Require that the names of all nominees be submitted to the secretary of state as candidates in an election to be held by the secretary of state as a private election.
4. Remove the requirement that elections be conducted by the secretary of state.
5. Remove the requirement that the elections be held throughout the state on the second Saturday of June, each year.