

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 547

BY REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS AND AMEDEE

ELECTION OFFENSES: Provides for election offenses

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:1461.3(C)(5), relative to election offenses; to provide that no person shall  
3 knowingly, willfully, or intentionally photograph, record, or otherwise reproduce  
4 voter registration information in precinct registers; to provide for penalties; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1461.3(C)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1461.3. Election offenses affecting election officials or watchers; penalties

9 \* \* \*

10 C. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

11 \* \* \*

12 (5) Photograph, record, or otherwise reproduce voter registration information  
13 in precinct registers, except while performing his duties as a clerk of court or an  
14 employee of a clerk, an election day or early voting commissioner, a registrar of  
15 voters or an employee of a registrar, or the secretary of state or an employee of the  
16 secretary of state.

17 \* \* \*

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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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HB 547 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Thomas

**Abstract:** Prohibits a person from photographing, recording, or otherwise reproducing voter registration information in precinct registers.

Present law (R.S. 18:1461.3(C)) provides for election offenses affecting election officials, or watchers and further provides for penalties. Provides that no person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

- (1) Being a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner fail to identify an applicant to vote as required by present law.
- (2) Sign another voter's name in the precinct register.
- (3) Attempt to influence an election official or watcher in the performance of his duties on election day.
- (4) Disobey any lawful instruction of a registrar, deputy registrar, commissioner-in-charge or commissioner or a law enforcement officer providing assistance to maintain order at a polling place.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that no person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally photograph, record, or otherwise reproduce voter registration information in precinct registers.

Proposed law provides proposed law shall not apply to a person who is performing his duties as a clerk of court or an employee of a clerk, an election day or early voting commissioner, a registrar of voters or an employee of a registrar, or the sec. of state or an employee of the secretary of state.

Present law provides that whoever violates present law shall be fined not more than \$500 or be imprisoned in the parish jail not more than 6 months, or both.

Proposed law retains present law and applies present law penalties to proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 18:1461.3(C)(5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide that proposed law shall not apply to a person who is performing his duties as a clerk of court or an employee of a clerk, an election day or early voting commissioner, a registrar of voters or an employee of a registrar, or the secretary of state or an employee of the secretary of state.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.

2. Move the provisions of proposed law from R.S. 18:1461.2(A)(11), which provides relative to election offenses affecting registration and election fraud or forgery, to R.S. 18:1461.3(C)(5), which provides relative to election offenses affecting election officials or watchers.
3. Change penalties for violation of proposed law from a fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both, for the first offense and a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years, or both, for subsequent offenses to not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.