
DIGEST

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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.