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## DIGEST

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Richmond

HB No. 100

**Abstract:** Provides for registered voters displaced by a gubernatorially declared state of emergency who have registered by mail to vote absentee by mail without first voting in person or appearing in the office of the registrar if they submit certain documentation showing their displaced status. Makes provision effective for a one- year period following any such governor's declaration, but allows the governor to extend such period upon certification of the secretary of state that due to the emergency such persons shall be impaired from voting during early voting and at the polls on election day.

Present law (R.S. 18:115) requires any voter who registered to vote by mail and who has not previously voted in the parish in which he is registered to vote in person in the office of the registrar or in person at the precinct where he is registered to vote. Provides that such requirement does not apply to certain persons who are uniformed and overseas, elderly, or handicapped to whom other provisions of present law apply, a student whose institution of higher learning is located outside of his parish of residence, provided that the student submit certain documentation, or to a person who appears in the office of the registrar of voters prior to the absentee in person voting period to establish his identity.

Proposed law extends the exemption from the requirements of present law to a person who has been temporarily displaced from his parish of residence by a gubernatorially declared state of emergency, when he also submits documentation showing his displaced status from a nonprofit organization exempt from federal taxation or a federal or state agency. Provides for the provisions of proposed law to be effective for one year following the date of the issuance of any gubernatorial proclamation declaring a state of emergency. Provides for the governor to extend the effective period of proposed law, relative to the emergency, via proclamation upon certification by the secretary of state that circumstances in the areas affected by the emergency significantly impair the ability of the displaced persons to vote in person during the early voting period or at the polls on election day.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 18:115(F)(2)(d))