
DIGEST

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LaFonta

HB No. 136

Abstract: Relative to holding parochial and municipal elections in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 475,000 or more, provides that such elections shall be held concurrently with the congressional elections if, following a gubernatorially declared state of emergency, such parish is eligible for certain types of federal assistance. Provides for the registrar to survey registered voters prior to qualifying and to certify if 20% of registered voters are still temporarily displaced from their parish of residence. Provides, in such case, for the House and Senate governmental affairs committees to determine when the elections may be held that would not result in the elections being impaired by the effects of the gubernatorially declared state of emergency and to set the election date.

Present law (R.S. 18:402(B)) provides relative to holding congressional elections every two years, beginning in 1982. Provides for primary elections to be held on the first Saturday in October of an election year and for general elections to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of an election year.

Present law (R.S. 18:402(D)) provides relative to holding parochial and municipal elections in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 475,000 or more. Provides for such elections to be held every four years, beginning in 1986. Provides for primary elections for such a parish to be held on the first Saturday in February of an election year. Provides for general elections in such a parish to be held on the fourth Saturday after the first Saturday in February of an election year. However, provides for the primary and general elections for the offices of recorder of mortgages and register of conveyances for the parish of Orleans to be held at the congressional elections set forth in present law (R.S. 18:402(B)).

Proposed law (R.S. 18:402(H)) provides that notwithstanding present law (R.S. 18:402(D)(1) and (2)), parochial and municipal elections in a parish containing a municipality with a population of 475,000 or more shall be held on the dates for congressional elections set forth in present law (R.S. 18:402(B)) in the same year they would otherwise be held if:

- (1) The governor has declared a state of disaster or emergency in the parish within one year prior to the date the election would be held.
- (2) The parish has been designated under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as eligible for individual assistance or individual assistance and public assistance. Provides for the registrar of voters in such parish, prior to the opening of qualifying for the congressional elections, to survey the registered voters of such parish and to certify in writing to the House and Senate governmental affairs

committee if more than 20% of the registered voters are displaced from their parish of residence. Provides for the House and Senate governmental affairs committees, meeting and functioning as a joint committee, to consider when the holding of such elections will no longer be impaired by the gubernatorially declared state of emergency and establish the dates for such election.

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

(Adds R.S. 18:402(H))