
The original instrument was prepared by Tabitha Irvin-Gray. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Diane M. Burkhart.

DIGEST

Jones (SB 6)

Present law provides that any registered voter who has registered by mail and has not previously voted in the parish in which he is registered shall vote: (a) during early voting in the office of the registrar of voters, or (b) in person at the precinct in which he is registered to vote. Present law specifies exceptions.

Proposed law adds to such exceptions a voter who is temporarily displaced from his parish of residence by a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency who registered to vote on or before Sept. 24, 2005, provided he submits with the application to vote by mail an affidavit attesting that he is temporarily displaced from his parish of residence, and that he expects to be out of his parish of registration during early voting and on election day. Provides that the authority for a person voting for the first time after registering by mail to vote by absentee by mail is effective for a period of one year from the effective date of the Act.

Provides that upon expiration of the authority, any voter who has voted absentee by mail who has not voted during early voting or at the polls on election day shall not be considered to have previously voted in the parish in which he is registered.

Proposed law authorizes a parish board of election supervisors to request and the secretary of state to authorize the use of commissioners and absentee commissioners from another parish for an election held within one year following the date of the issuance of any gubernatorial proclamation declaring a state of emergency because a significant number of commissioners have been temporarily displaced due to the emergency. Provides a procedure from making the request, validating the need, and providing the commissioners.

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

(Adds R.S. 18:115(F)(2)(d) and 425(A)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Limits the authorization to vote absentee by mail the first time a person votes after registering by mail to persons temporarily displaced by a gubernatorially declared emergency or disaster from their parish of residence who registered to vote on or before Sept. 24, 2005.

2. Requires such a person to submit with his application to vote by mail an affidavit attesting that he is temporarily displaced from his parish of residence, that he is eligible to vote in his parish of residence and that he expects to be out of his parish of registration during early voting and on election day.
3. Sunsets the authority one year after the effective date of this Act.
4. Requires that a person who votes absentee by mail when voting the first time after registering to vote by mail under this authorization to appear in person during early voting or at the polls on election day on the first occasion of voting after the authority of this Act expires.
5. Authorizes a parish board of election supervisors to request and the secretary of state to authorize the use of commissioners and absentee commissioners from another parish for an election held within one year following the date of the issuance of any gubernatorial proclamation declaring a state of emergency because a significant number of commissioners have been temporarily displaced due to the emergency.
6. Provides for effectiveness upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.