

SB 89 By Senator Jones

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS IT LEFT THE SENATE

VOTERS/VOTING. Provides for holding elections impaired as a result of a gubernatorially declared disaster or emergency pursuant to a plan for registration, early voting, absentee voting by mail, and election day voting. (gov sig)

SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the reengrossed bill.

1. Removes authorization for secretary of state to devise an election plan for registration, early voting, absentee voting by mail and election day voting with the approval of the governor and the House and Senate governmental affairs committees.
2. Provides authorization for the secretary of state to devise an election plan for holding an election that may otherwise be held except for certain specified technical, mechanical, or logistical problems after the issuance of an executive order by the governor declaring a state of emergency.
3. Requires the approval of the governor and the House and Senate governmental affairs committees of the necessity of the plan.
4. Requires approval of the plan by a majority of the members of the House and Senate governmental affairs committees, a majority of each house of the legislature, and the governor prior to implementation.
5. Provides specific procedures to obtain legislative approval by mail ballot.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS IT LEFT THE SENATE

Proposed law authorizes the secretary of state, upon a gubernatorial declaration of emergency and a determination that the emergency will impair a scheduled election, to certify to the governor and the Senate and House governmental affairs committees the need for an election plan for registration, early voting, absentee voting by mail and election day voting. Requires the secretary of state to submit a written plan as soon as practicable after the concurrence of the governor and the majority of the members of each committee with his certification. After approval by the governor and the majority of the members of each committee of the emergency plan, requires the secretary of state to take all necessary steps to implement the plan following compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

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

(Adds R.S. 18:401.3)

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