

Existing law (La. Election Code) provides for absentee by mail and early voting for registered voters who are unable to vote at the polls on election day. Provides that any qualified voter may vote in person during the early voting period (the period between 14 days to seven days before the election) at certain locations.

Existing law provides that only specified persons may vote absentee by mail, including a member of the U.S. service and his spouse and dependents, a person who resides outside of the U.S., and a person who expects to be temporarily outside the normal territorial limits of the state or absent from the parish in which he is qualified to vote during the early voting period and on election day. Requires a person to make application to the registrar by letter. Provides deadlines. Allows for electronic transmission of ballot information to members of the U.S. service and persons residing outside the U.S. Allows a voter to fax a voted ballot to the registrar if he feels he will not have sufficient time to vote timely by mail.

Existing law (R.S. 18:1308) requires the secretary of state to take all actions reasonably necessary to allow members of the U.S. service and persons residing outside the U.S. to vote according to federal law (the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) or otherwise, whether by mail, facsimile, or other means of transmission of the ballot. Prior law limited the applicability of this requirement to periods of declared emergency. New law repeals prior law.

New law additionally provides that the secretary of state shall take all actions reasonably necessary to allow registered voters who are unable to vote during early voting or on election day due to out-of-state work responsibilities relating to a declared emergency to vote, whether by mail, facsimile, or other means of transmission of the ballot.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 12, 2013).

(Amends R.S. 18:1308(A)(2)(j))