

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 471

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANAHAAY

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS: Provides qualifications for the office of registrar of voters

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:52, relative to the office of registrar of voters; to provide
3 qualifications for registrars of voters and applicants for the office of registrar of
4 voters; to provide definitions; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:52 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §52. ~~Qualification~~ Qualifications of registrars

8 A. Each applicant to fill the office of registrar of voters shall be a registered
9 voter. If appointed to fill the office of registrar of voters, the applicant shall become
10 a resident and registered voter of the parish in which he is to perform his duties prior
11 to taking the oath of office. Each The registrar shall ~~be~~ remain a resident and
12 qualified voter of the parish in which he is to perform his duties.

13 B.(1) The registrar shall possess at least one of the following at the time of
14 appointment:

15 (a) A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and two years of
16 full-time, professional work experience.

17 (b) An associate degree from an accredited institution and four years of
18 full-time, professional work experience.

19 (c) Seven years of full-time, professional work experience.

20 (d) Five years of full-time employment in a registrar's office in Louisiana.

1 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, "professional work experience" means
 2 experience in an occupation which requires specialized and theoretical knowledge
 3 usually acquired through college training or through work experience and other
 4 training which provides comparable knowledge.

5 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any registrar appointed prior
 6 to the effective date of this Act.

7 Section 3. This Act shall become effective if and when the proposed amendment of
 8 Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana contained in the Act which originated
 9 as House Bill No. 459 of this 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature is adopted at a
 10 statewide election and becomes effective.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 471 Reengrossed

2016 Regular Session

Danahay

Abstract: Provides qualifications for registrars of voters.

Present constitution (Art. XI, §5) provides that the governing authority of each parish shall appoint a registrar of voters, whose compensation, removal from office for cause, bond, powers, and functions shall be provided by law.

Present law (R.S. 18:52) requires the registrar to be a resident and qualified voter of the parish in which he is to perform his duties.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law additionally requires each applicant to fill the office of registrar of voters to be a registered voter. Provides that if appointed to fill the office of registrar of voters, the applicant shall become a resident and registered voter of the parish in which he is to perform his duties prior to taking the oath of office.

Proposed law requires the registrar to possess at least one of the following at the time of appointment:

- (1) A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution and two years of full-time, professional work experience.
- (2) An associate degree from an accredited institution and four years of full-time, professional work experience.
- (3) Seven years of full-time, professional work experience.
- (4) Five years of full-time employment in a registrar's office in La.

Provides that for purposes of proposed law, "professional work experience" means experience in an occupation which requires specialized and theoretical knowledge usually acquired through college training or through work experience and other training which provides comparable knowledge.

Proposed law provides that it does not apply to any registrar appointed prior to the effective date of proposed law.

Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. 459 of the 2016 R.S. is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Amends R.S. 18:52)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Relative to the alternative qualification that the registrar possess a baccalaureate degree and a certain number of years of full-time, professional work experience, require the degree to be from an accredited institution and reduce from three to two the number of years of work experience required.
2. Add an alternative qualification that the registrar possess an associate degree from an accredited institution and four years of full-time, professional work experience.
3. Relative to the alternative qualification that the registrar possess only a certain number of years of full-time, professional work experience, reduce from nine to seven the number of such years of work experience required.
4. Relative to the alternative qualification that the registrar possess only a certain number of years of full-time employment in a registrar's office in La., reduce from six to five the number of such years of employment required.