

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 552

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS: Provides relative to the duties of the registrar of voters relative to requests for copies of records of the registrar

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:154(B), relative to records of the registrar of voters; to  
3 provide relative to copying of the records of the registrar; to provide relative to  
4 requests to copy the records of the registrar; to provide for the duties of the registrar  
5 relative to requests to copy records; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:154(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

9 \* \* \*

10 B.(1) When twenty-five or more qualified voters of a parish request in  
11 writing that the registrar permit the copying of any part of his records, except the  
12 early voting confirmation sheets, he shall allow this to be done by hand or otherwise,  
13 if so requested, unless such reproduction seriously interferes with the registration of  
14 voters or otherwise seriously interferes with the performance of the duties imposed  
15 on his office by law. In such instances, the registrar shall cause his employees to  
16 make copies of the requested records or print the information electronically, if the  
17 electronic copy contains the same information, and deliver them to the voters or  
18 request the secretary of state to reproduce such records which may then be forwarded  
19 to the registrar for delivery to the voters. Copying by the registrar or his employees

1 or the secretary of state or printing an electronic copy shall be done in the presence  
2 of a representative of the requesting voters, if they so request.

3 (2) The registrar shall endorse each written request made pursuant to  
4 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection with the day and hour of receipt and shall provide  
5 a copy of the endorsed written request to the person submitting the request.

6 \* \* \*

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 552 Original

2018 Regular Session

Edmonds

**Abstract:** Requires the registrar to provide copies of written requests for records.

Present law (R.S. 18:154) provides that the records of each registrar are public records and at all times during office hours shall be open to inspection, except the early voting confirmation sheets of voters.

Present law requires the registrar to allow his records to be copied only when 25 or more qualified voters make a request in writing. Provides that if such copying would seriously interfere with the registration of voters or the performance of his duties, the registrar shall cause his employees to make copies of the requested records or print the information electronically, if the electronic copy contains the same information, and deliver them to the voters or request the secretary of state to reproduce such records which may then be forwarded to the registrar for delivery to the voters. Provides that copying by the registrar or his employees or the secretary of state or printing an electronic copy shall be done in the presence of a representative of the requesting voters, if they so request.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally, requires the registrar to endorse each request made pursuant to present law with the day and hour of receipt to provide a copy of the endorsed written request to the person submitting the request.

(Amends R.S. 18:154(B))