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## DIGEST

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HB 351 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Jenkins

**Abstract:** Repeals the requirement that a person be unable to vote in person at the polls on election day or during early voting due to a physical disability in order to participate in the nursing home early voting program and the requirement that a participant provide proof of disability and a certification from a physician.

Present law (R.S. 18:1333) provides relative to the nursing home early voting program. Provides requirements and procedures for the program, which require the registrar to go to each nursing home in the parish where persons who are eligible to vote reside to allow them to vote at the nursing home during the early voting period.

Present law provides that a qualified voter who resides in a nursing home within the parish in which he is entitled to vote and who is unable to vote in person at the polls on election day or during early voting due to a physical disability may vote early pursuant to the program.

Proposed law repeals the requirement that the voter be unable to vote in person at the polls on election day or during early voting to be eligible to participate in the program. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that a voter who participated in the former Special Program for Handicapped Voters as such program existed prior to Jan. 1, 2010, and who is a resident or has become a resident of a nursing home is eligible to participate in the program.

Present law additionally provides that a voter is eligible to participate in the program if the voter resides in a nursing home and provides to the registrar of voters current proof of disability from a physician along with a certification from the physician that the voter is unable to appear in person to vote either during early voting or at the polling place.

Proposed law repeals the requirement to submit proof of disability and a certification from a physician. Instead provides that a voter is eligible to participate in the program if the voter certifies that he is a resident of the nursing home.

Present law requires an eligible voter to make written application to the registrar of voters prior to participating in the program. Provides requirements for the application and deadlines.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that application is made by letter and refers to the letter as a request.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law defines "nursing home" to include a veterans' home, operated by the state or federal government where a person who is unable to vote in person at the polls or during early voting because of a physical disability resides.

Proposed law repeals requirement that the veterans' home be one where a person who is unable to vote in person at the polls or during early voting because of a physical disability resides. Otherwise retains present law.

Effective January 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 18:1333(A), (B), (C)(2), and (D))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

##### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Repeal the requirement that a person be unable to vote in person at the polls on election day or during early voting due to a physical disability in order to participate in the nursing home early voting program.
2. Repeal provisions requiring a veterans' home to be one where a person who is unable to vote in person at the polls or during early voting because of a physical disability resides in order to be considered a "nursing home" for purposes of present law and proposed law.