

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

**HB 351**

**2018 Regular Session**

**Jenkins**

VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to voting by persons in a nursing home

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Makes technical changes.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law (R.S. 18:1333) provides relative to the nursing home early voting program. Provides requirements and procedures for the program, which involves the registrar going to each nursing home in the parish where voters eligible to vote pursuant to present law reside to allow them to cast a mail ballot.

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 of a nursing home is eligible to participate in the program.

Proposed law retains present law.

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 pursuant to the program.

Proposed law removes 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 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 requires the voter to provide 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 present law. Instead requires the voter certify that he is a resident of the nursing home.

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))