

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 75

BY SENATOR MIZELL

VOTERS/VOTING. Provides relative to addresses to where absentee by mail ballots are sent. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1306(E)(2)(a) and 1307(A), relative to absentee voting; to
3 prohibit the sending of absentee by mail ballots to certain addresses; to limit who
4 may witness more than one certificate of a voter to an immediate family member;
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1306(E)(2)(a) and 1307(A) are hereby amended and reenacted
8 to read as follows:

9 §1306. Preparation and distribution of absentee by mail and early voting ballots

10 * * *

11 E.(1) * * *

12 (2)(a) An absentee by mail ballot envelope flap shall also contain a line for
13 the handwritten signature of one witness and a line for the printed name of the
14 witness. The voter shall sign the certificate in the presence of one witness and his
15 certificate shall be made under penalty of perjury for providing false or fraudulent
16 information. Above the perforation and along the seal line, the words "DO NOT
17 DETACH FLAP" shall be printed. No person except the immediate family

1 member of the voter, as defined in this Code, shall witness more than one
2 certificate of a voter.

3 * * *

4 §1307. Application by mail

5 A. A person qualified to vote absentee by mail under this Chapter may make
6 application therefor to the registrar by letter; over his signature or mark if the voter
7 is unable to sign his name, signed by two witnesses who witnessed the applicant's
8 mark; setting forth:

9 (1) The election or elections for which he requests an absentee ballot.

10 (2) The reason for his request to vote absentee by mail and attaching any
11 documents in support thereof that are required by law. Any person who is or expects
12 to be temporarily outside the territorial limits of the state or absent from the parish
13 in which he is qualified to vote during the early voting period and on election day
14 and who requests an absentee ballot be mailed to an address within the parish shall
15 indicate in his application the dates he will be outside the territorial limits of the state
16 or absent from the parish.

17 (3) The address to which the absentee ballot or ballots shall be sent. If the
18 address is within the parish or an adjacent parish, such address shall only be the
19 address at which the applicant is registered to vote, his mailing address on file with
20 the registrar of voters, or an address at which he regularly receives mail.

21 (4) Notwithstanding Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, the absentee by
22 mail ballots shall not be sent to the following addresses:

23 (a) The address of a political party.

24 (b) The residential, business, or campaign address of a candidate, unless
25 the address is for the candidate's ballot or a ballot of an immediate family
26 member of the candidate.

27 (c) A business address, unless the business address is the mailing address
28 on file with the registrar of voters or an address at which the person regularly
29 receives mail.

- (3) The address to which the absentee ballot or ballots shall be sent.
- (4) The ward and precinct in which the person is qualified to vote, if known.
- (5) The date of birth of the voter.
- (6) The maiden name of the voter's mother or other identifying information provided in the voter's application for registration.
- (7) The street address in the parish where the voter resides.
- (8) If the person requests that a ballot for a general election be sent in addition to a ballot for the primary, he shall declare in writing to the registrar that he will be eligible to vote absentee by mail in the general election.

Proposed law provides that the absentee by mail ballots will not be sent to the following addresses:

- (1) The address of a political party.
- (2) The residential, business, or campaign address of a candidate, unless the address is for the candidate's ballot or a ballot of an immediate family member of the candidate.
- (3) A business address, unless the business address is the mailing address on file with the registrar of voters or an address at which the person regularly receives mail.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 18:1306(E)(2)(a) and 1307(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Adds prohibition for any person to witness more than one certificate of a voter other than the voter's immediate family.