
DIGEST

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HB 285 Original

2021 Regular Session

James

Abstract: Changes the amount of time a voter may remain in the voting machine from no more than three minutes to at least five minutes and authorizes election officials to allocate additional time in an equitable manner if the ballot is lengthy or complex.

Present law provides that during early voting and on election day, a voter shall not remain in a voting machine longer than three minutes. Provides that if a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after being notified by the appropriate election official that three minutes have elapsed, the commissioner, if on election day, shall order the voter to complete voting and leave the voting machine, and if during early voting, the registrar or deputy registrar shall have the voter removed from the voting machine.

Proposed law provides instead that a voter shall not remain in a voting machine for an unreasonable amount of time. Provides that if a voter fails to leave a voting machine promptly after being notified by the appropriate election official that a reasonable amount of time has elapsed, the commissioner, if on election day, shall order the voter to complete voting and leave the voting machine, and if during early voting, the registrar or deputy registrar shall have the voter removed from the voting machine. Proposed law provides that a reasonable amount of time shall mean at least five minutes and, if the ballot is lengthy or if it contains complex propositions or constitutional amendments, the appropriate election officials may allocate additional time in an equitable manner.

Present law specially allows a voter receiving assistance in voting or a voter using the audio ballot to remain in a voting machine for up to 20 minutes. Proposed law retains present law.

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

(Amends R.S. 18: 18:563(C)(1) and 1309(E)(4)(a))