
The original instrument was prepared by Matt Deville. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Ann S. Brown.

SB 64 Reengrossed

DIGEST
2021 Regular Session

Bernard

Present law provides for legislative intent regarding the creation of a campaign-free zone around polling places to ensure that voters are able to exercise the right to vote in a secure environment and acknowledges prior instances of election problems that led to the creation of the campaign-free zone.

Proposed law removes references to prior election problems and clarifies the legislative intent is to preserve the integrity of the election process, and to protect the right of citizens to vote freely for the candidates of their choice, the state has a compelling interest in establishing a zone securing polling locations against certain conduct and activities, including voter intimidation, election, fraud, confusion, and general disorder, that would interfere with the exercise of the right to vote.

Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, present law provides for a campaign-free zone around polling places by prohibiting certain acts between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. within any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of 600 feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law prohibits soliciting any other person to vote for or against any candidate or proposition being voted on in an election within the zone during the designated time period.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law prohibits handing out, placing, or displaying campaign cards, pictures, or other campaign literature of any kind or description whatsoever and placing or displaying political signs, pictures, or other forms of political advertising within the zone during the designated time period.

Proposed law specifies that the prohibition applies to materials advocating for or against any candidate, proposition, or political party appearing on the ballot in the election.

Present law prohibits circulating a recall petition or seeking handwritten signatures to a recall petition within the zone during the designated time period.

Proposed law retains present law and further prohibits circulating or seeking signatures to any petition within the zone during the designated time period.

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

(Amends R.S. 18:1462(A)(intro para), (3), (4), and (5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Modifies legislative intent language.
3. Restores present law provisions relative to permitted activities within a polling place's campaign-free zone.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Adds the legislative intent regarding the creation of campaign-free zone around polling places.