

Present law provides that absentee by mail and early voting ballots submitted by a voter who casts a vote in person at the precinct shall be marked as rejected, kept unopened for six months, and destroyed.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for these records to be kept unopened for at least two years from the date of the election.

Present law provides that all mail ballots received on or after election day shall not be counted and shall be endorsed with the day and hour of receipt, kept unopened for six months, then destroyed.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that these ballots be kept unopened for at least two years from the date of the election.

Present law provides relative to the powers, functions, and duties of the legislative auditor.

Proposed law requires the legislative auditor to examine, audit, or review local, state, and federal elections that are held pursuant to the La. Election Code.

Proposed law allows the auditor to set the scope, frequency, and methodology of the examinations and provides that the auditor may utilize a performance-based or risk-based approach for the examinations of elections.

Proposed law requires the legislative auditor to submit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs on or before May 1st of each year and to present the report to those committees, meeting separately or jointly, not later than May 31st of each year.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 18:158, 403, 1311(D)(4)(b), and 1312(D); adds R.S. 24:513(D)(7))

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 to title and enacting clause.
2. Requires parish registrars of voters to preserve all records relative to absentee by mail and early voting ballots for a period of at least two years from the date of the election.
3. Requires each election official to preserve all records and papers relating to candidate qualifying, the selection of commissioners, alternate commissioners, and watchers, and any application, registration, or other act requisite to voting for at least two years from the date of the election.