

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 138

BY REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) and to enact R.S. 18:192.1, relative to the  
3 annual canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide for a supplemental annual  
4 canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide relative to an inactive list of voters;  
5 to provide for updating voter registration information; to provide for an effective  
6 date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
9 18:192.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §192.1. Supplemental annual canvass

11 A. Each year, once the registrars have sent address confirmation cards as set  
12 forth in R.S. 18:192(A)(2), the Department of State shall conduct the supplemental  
13 annual canvass set forth in this Section.

14 B. The purpose of the supplemental annual canvass is to identify other  
15 registrants who have moved and need to update their voter registration records to  
16 reflect their current addresses.

17 C. The secretary of state shall identify, from information available in the  
18 state voter registration computer system, registrants to which all the following apply:

1           (1) Registrants whose names did not appear with corrected addresses  
2           provided by the United States Postal Service or its licensee under R.S.  
3           18:192(A)(1)(b).

4           (2) Registrants who have not voted in an election in the past ten years.

5           (3) Registrants who failed to engage in any of the following activities in the  
6           past ten years: make an application for voter registration, to receive an absentee  
7           ballot, validly sign a petition submitted to the registrar of voters for certification  
8           pursuant to law, to change a name, address, or party affiliation or nonaffiliation, or  
9           any other change in registration, or to participate in the nursing home program.

10           D. The Department of State shall send to the registrants so identified a  
11           "supplemental address confirmation card" and place the registrant on the inactive list  
12           of voters.

13           E. For the purposes of this Section, "supplemental address confirmation  
14           card" means a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card, sent by forwardable  
15           mail. The Department of State is responsible for developing the supplemental  
16           address confirmation card and shall submit it to the House Committee on House and  
17           Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental  
18           Affairs for review. The department is also responsible for informing the registrant  
19           about his voting rights under the supplemental address confirmation process.

20           F. If the registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation card  
21           and has not moved or has moved within the parish, the registrar shall remove the  
22           registrant's name from the inactive list of voters if it is on the inactive list and correct  
23           the registrant's address if necessary.

24           G.(1) If the registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation  
25           card and has permanently moved to a different parish, the registrar shall transfer the  
26           registrant's registration information to the parish of residence.

27           (2) If the registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation card  
28           and has permanently moved outside the state, the registrar shall cancel the  
29           registrant's registration.

1           H. A registrant on the inactive list of voters who fails to respond to the  
2           supplemental address confirmation card shall remain on the inactive list of voters  
3           until his address is confirmed in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.S.  
4           18:196 or not later than a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections,  
5           at which time the registrar shall cancel the registrant's registration.

6           I. A list of names and addresses to whom supplemental address confirmation  
7           cards are sent and whether or not each registrant responded to the confirmation card  
8           shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection and  
9           copying as provided in R.S. 18:154. Ninety days prior to a regularly scheduled  
10          federal primary election, the names and addresses of those registrants on the inactive  
11          list shall be published for one day in the official journal of the parish governing  
12          authority or in a newspaper calculated to provide maximum notice in the parish.

13   \*       \*       \*

14           §196. Inactive list of voters; procedure for voting

15                     A.(1) In addition to the official list of voters, there shall be an inactive list  
16                     of voters which shall consist of registrants who have been mailed an address  
17                     confirmation or a supplemental address confirmation card. The names of registrants  
18                     on the inactive list of voters shall not be counted in computing the number of ballots  
19                     required for an election, the number of voters required to divide or constitute a  
20                     precinct, the number of signatures required on any petition, the number of  
21                     commissioners at a precinct pursuant to R.S. 18:425, the number of voting machines  
22                     to be allocated and used in each voting precinct pursuant to R.S. 18:1363, or the  
23                     number of registered voters necessary to recognize or determine the organization of  
24                     a political party or committee.

25   \*       \*       \*

26                     D. If a registrant who has failed to respond to an address confirmation card  
27                     or a supplemental address confirmation card and whose name appears on the inactive  
28                     list of voters does not vote in any election from the date he is placed on the inactive  
29                     list of voters until the day after the second regularly scheduled general election for

- 1 federal office held after such date, the registrar shall cancel the registration of the  
2 registrant.
- 3 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on April 1, 2022.

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 138 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Farnum

**Abstract:** Creates a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.

Present law (R.S. 18:192) requires each registrar of voters to annually canvass the names of persons registered to vote. Provides procedures for verifying the names and addresses of such registrants. Provides procedures and requirements for correction and cancellation of registrations in conjunction with the canvass. Provides that the registrar of voters shall annually canvass the names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish no later than June.

Proposed law retains present law and requires each registrar of voters to annually conduct a supplemental canvass to identify voters who have moved and need to update their voter registration to their current addresses. Provides procedures for identifying such registrants, including mailing address confirmation cards. Further provides that such registrants shall be placed on the inactive list of voters until the registrant confirms that the address on the confirmation card is correct. Provides that the registrar shall transfer the voter's registration information to the parish of residence if the voter has permanently moved to a different parish. Provides that the registrar shall cancel the voter's registration if the voter has permanently moved to a different state.

Proposed law provides that a voter's registration shall be canceled after a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections if the voter fails to respond to the confirmation card. Further provides that a list of names and addresses to whom confirmation cards are sent and whether or not each person responded to the confirmation card shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection.

Proposed law requires biannual publication of the list of inactive voters in a newspaper.

Effective April 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D); Adds R.S. 18:192.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Regarding persons who receive a supplemental address confirmation card, the amendments remove those whose addresses were not verified in the annual canvass and add those whose addresses were not corrected in accordance with information received from the U.S. Postal Service.