

---

## 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 285 Engrossed

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 no more than six 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 longer than six minutes. Proposed law further provides that 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. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

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 Jan. 1, 2022.

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

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove proposed "unreasonable amount of time" limit standard for a voter to vote and remove provision that at least five minutes constituted a "reasonable amount of time".
2. Change the amount of time a voter may remain in the voting machines to no longer than

six minutes, with an authorization for election officials to allocate additional time if the ballot is lengthy or contains complex propositions or constitutional amendments.

3. Change effective date from signature of the governor to Jan. 1, 2022.