

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; receive an absentee ballot;
7 validly sign a petition submitted to the registrar of voters for certification pursuant
8 to law; change a name, address, or party affiliation or nonaffiliation; make any other
9 change in registration; or 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.

* * *

§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.

* * *

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 Reengrossed

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.