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## DIGEST

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HB 559 Original

2022 Regular Session

Edmonds

**Abstract:** Provides for curing absentee by mail ballot deficiencies.

Present law provides that when a voter receives the absentee voting materials by mail, he first shall fill in all blanks on the certificate on the ballot envelope flap. The voter then shall mark the ballot according to the printed instructions on its face. Then the voter shall place the voted ballot in the envelope, seal the envelope, and sign the certificate on the ballot envelope flap.

Proposed law retains present law and provides a process for curing absentee by mail ballot deficiencies.

Proposed law provides that upon receipt of an absentee by mail ballot, a registrar of voters shall review the absentee by mail ballot envelope flap for deficiencies. If a deficiency on the absentee by mail ballot envelope flap is found, the registrar of voters shall segregate the ballot envelope and promptly notify the voter of the ballot envelope flap deficiency and of the opportunity to cure the deficiency.

Proposed law provides that the registrar of voters shall inform the voter of the type of deficiency, the process for curing the deficiency, the deadline for doing so, and that completing the curing process does not guarantee that his ballot will be accepted.

Proposed law provides that voters are required to appear in person at their registrar of voters office during normal business hours the day before the election to cure the ballot envelope flap deficiency. Further provides procedure for curing absentee ballot deficiencies.

Proposed law provides that each cured ballot shall be submitted to the parish board of election supervisors who shall determine if such ballot is rejected. During the counting of absentee by mail ballots, at least a majority of the members of the board shall hear and determine the validity of any ballot cured in accordance with the provisions of proposed law. Further provides that if a ballot is rejected, the vote shall not be counted and the board shall notify the voter in writing of such rejection and the cause therefor.

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

(Adds R.S. 18:1313(G)(11) and (H)(14), 1313.1(H)(10), and 1317)