AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

§192.1.  Supplemental annual canvass

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

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

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

(1)  The registrant's name did not appear with a corrected address provided by the United States Postal Service or its licensee under R.S. 18:192(A)(1)(b).
(2) The registrant has not voted in an election in the past ten years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

H. A registrant on the inactive list of voters who fails to respond to the supplemental address confirmation card shall remain on the inactive list of voters until his address is confirmed in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.S.
§ 196. Inactive list of voters; procedure for voting

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

D. If a registrant who has failed to respond to an address confirmation card or a supplemental address confirmation card and whose name appears on the inactive list of voters does not vote in any election from the date he is placed on the inactive list of voters until the day after the second regularly scheduled general election for federal office held after such date, the registrar shall cancel the registration of the registrant.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on March 31, 2023.
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 35 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session Farnum

Abstract: Requires 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 March 31, 2023.

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