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## DIGEST

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HB 912 Reengrossed

2022 Regular Session

Magee

**Abstract:** Makes technical changes to certain provisions relative to the manner in which ballots are prepared and marked and relative to determinations by the parish board of election supervisors regarding certain marks on ballots.

Present law (R.S. 18:563 and 1309) provide that in order to cast a vote on a paper ballot, a voter must make a selection for a candidate or for or against a proposition by *completely filling in the oval to the right of a selection* and returning the ballot to the appropriate election official by the applicable legal deadline.

Proposed law removes the provisions that require the voter to completely fill in the oval to the right of a selection and instead requires the voter to mark his ballot in accordance with the instructions and otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that if a voter makes selections for more than the number of candidates to be elected for an office or makes selections for and against the same proposition, the selections for that office or proposition *will* be void. Proposed law changes "will" to "shall" and otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1316) provides that any ballot with a distinguishing mark or feature making the ballot susceptible of identification shall be rejected if at least a majority of the members of the board determine that the distinguishing mark was made by action of the voter. Further specifies that if the voter marked the ballot in such manner that a portion of the mark to indicate a vote inadvertently extends outside the *box* in which it is to be placed shall not be sufficient cause to reject the ballot. Proposed law changes "box" to "designated area" and otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1259) provides for the arrangement of the ballot for presidential elections and specifies that on paper ballots, there shall be a *single box* within which to mark the ballot. Proposed law changes "single box" to "designated area", makes other technical changes, and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:563(D)(2), 1259(B)(5), 1309(E)(5)(b)(i) and (iii), and 1316(A); Adds R.S. 18:1309(E)(5)(b)(iv))