

SENATE BILL NO. 144

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, GAROFALO,  
HODGES AND SEABAUGH

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1308(B), relative to elections; to provide for hand delivery  
3 of absentee by mail ballots; to provide for the manner, location, and time periods for  
4 receiving hand delivered ballots; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:1308(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §1308. Absentee voting by mail

8 \* \* \*

9 B.(1) The ballot shall be marked as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and returned to  
10 the registrar by the United States Postal Service, a commercial courier, or hand  
11 delivery. If delivered by other than the voter, a commercial courier, or the United  
12 States Postal Service, the registrar shall require that the person making such delivery  
13 sign a statement, prepared by the secretary of state, certifying that he has the  
14 authorization and consent of the voter to hand deliver the marked ballot. For  
15 purposes of this Subsection, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as  
16 provided in R.S. 13:3204(D). No person except the immediate family of the voter,  
17 as defined in this Code, shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot per election  
18 to the registrar. Upon its receipt, the registrar shall post the name and precinct of the  
19 voter as required by R.S. 18:1311.

20 **(2) If the ballot is hand delivered, the voter or person authorized by the**  
21 **voter pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall deliver the absentee**  
22 **ballot to the registrar or to an employee of the registrar at one of the following**  
23 **locations:**

24 **(a) The registrar's principal office, as long as the absentee by mail ballot**  
25 **is returned during the time period set forth in Subsection C of this Section.**

1                   **(b) The registrar's branch office, as long as the absentee by mail ballot**  
2                   **is returned during the time period set forth in Subsection C of this Section.**

3                   **(c) An early voting location in the parish in which the voter is registered**  
4                   **to vote, as long as the ballot is returned during the applicable period of time set**  
5                   **forth for early voting in R.S. 18:1309.**

\*      \*      \*

7                   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
8                   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
9                   by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
10                   vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
11                   effective on the day following such approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_