

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 652 (HB 1065)

2022 Regular Session

Newell

Existing law provides relative to polling places for elections. Requires parish governing authorities to establish one polling place for each precinct. Existing law requires the parish governing authority to publish a notice of each establishment or change of location of a polling place. Also requires each parish board of election supervisors to publish the location of polling places in the parish during the third week before each primary election.

Existing law generally prohibits changing the location of a polling place within a specified period prior to and during an election. However, existing law authorizes changing a polling place during the specified period if a polling place becomes unavailable because of an emergency caused by an act of God or because privately owned property being used as a polling place becomes unavailable through no fault of the governing authority. Existing law also authorizes the secretary of state to authorize the relocation of a polling place that is destroyed, inaccessible, or unsafe due to an emergency or common disaster.

If a polling place is relocated under these conditions, existing law requires that each voter registered to vote at that polling place and each candidate to be voted on at that polling place be notified of the change in the following manner:

- (1) Each candidate shall be given immediate notice by telephone and by certified mail. For relocations due to an emergency, authorizes notification by electronic means as an alternative to authorization by telephone.
- (2) Posting of a sign at the former polling place directing voters to the new location.
- (3) Stationing a parish employee at the former polling place to direct potential voters to the new location.
- (4) If reasonable time exists, publication of the notice of the change in the official journal of the parish and in any other newspaper of general circulation in the precinct or precincts affected.

New law requires that the locations and relocations of polling places be published on the website of the secretary of state and authorizes publication of such information on websites maintained by parish election officials. Further requires that each website with such information include instructions on how a voter may subscribe to receive electronic notifications of polling place location changes.

Effective October 15, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 18:535(B); Adds R.S. 18:536(C))