

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 174

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

ELECTION CODE: Prohibits the disclosure of certain information regarding the active duty or dependent status of certain voters

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 18:154(C)(1)(h), relative to the disclosure of voter registration information;
3 to prohibit the disclosure of the active duty or dependent status of certain voters; to
4 prohibit the disclosure of certain addresses; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:154(C)(1)(h) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §154. Records open to inspection; copying; exceptions

8 * * *

9 C.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, the
10 registrar, the clerk of court, the Department of State, the office of motor vehicles of
11 the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and any entity that contracts with
12 the office, each voter registration agency and any entity that contracts with a voter
13 registration agency, and any person who handles the voter registration application
14 form of another person shall be prohibited from circulating on a commercial list or
15 otherwise disclosing the following:

16 * * *

17 (h) The active duty status or dependent status of a voter who requested an
18 absentee ballot pursuant to the provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens
19 Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.) or the physical mailing address where
20 such a ballot is mailed.

21 * * *

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 174 Engrossed

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Emerson

Abstract: Prohibits certain persons handling voter registration information from disclosing the active duty or dependent status and the physical mailing address of a voter who requested an absentee ballot pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).

Present federal law (52 U.S.C. 20302) requires states to permit absent uniformed services voters and their dependents to use absentee registration procedures for federal elections.

Present law provides that the registrar, the clerk of court, the Dept. of State, the office of motor vehicles of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections and any entity that contracts with the office, each voter registration agency and any entity that contracts with a voter registration agency, and any person who handles the voter registration application form of another person are prohibited from circulating on a commercial list or otherwise disclosing certain information regarding registered voters.

Proposed law prohibits the persons included in present law from disclosing the active duty status or dependent status of a voter who requested an absentee ballot pursuant to present federal law or the physical mailing address where such a ballot is mailed.

(Adds R.S. 18:154(C)(1)(h))