

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 646 (Substitute for House Bill No. 159 by Representative Farnum)

BY REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM

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

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for the annual canvass of registered voters

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:192, 193(H), and 198(A), to enact R.S. 18:191.1, and to  
3 repeal R.S. 18:193(B) and (I), relative to the annual canvass of persons registered to  
4 vote; to provide for criteria for the annual canvass; to provide for the duties of the  
5 Department of State; to provide relative to the address confirmation notice; to  
6 provide relative to the inactive list of voters; to provide for updating voter  
7 registration information; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related  
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 18:192, 193(H), and 198(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and  
11 R.S. 18:191.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §191.1. Address confirmation notice

13 For the purposes of this Part, the Department of State shall develop an  
14 address confirmation notice which shall include a postage prepaid and preaddressed  
15 return notice sent by forwardable mail and shall inform the registrant about his  
16 voting rights under the address confirmation process. The address confirmation  
17 notice shall be submitted by the Department of State to the House Committee on  
18 House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and  
19 Governmental Affairs for review.

20 §192. Annual canvass; costs

1           A.(1)~~(a)~~ No later than June thirtieth ~~in each parish~~, the registrar of voters of  
2           each parish in conjunction with the Department of State shall annually canvass the  
3           names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish. Failure of the registrar to  
4           conduct an annual canvass as provided in this ~~Paragraph~~ Subsection shall constitute  
5           willful misconduct relating to his official duty for the purposes of R.S. 18:53. The  
6           Department of State shall use the United States Postal Service or its licensee to  
7           verify the names and addresses of the registrants in all precincts in the state. A  
8           verification by the United States Postal Service or its licensee shall constitute a valid  
9           canvass of the registered voter.

10           ~~(b)~~ (2) In conducting the verification, if the United States Postal Service or  
11           its licensee provides a corrected address, the Department of State shall furnish the  
12           corrected address to the appropriate registrar of voters. Upon receiving a corrected  
13           address inside the parish, either the Department of State ~~may make the change~~ or the  
14           registrar of voters shall update the voter's address on the statewide registration  
15           system and ~~the registrar of voters may make the change on his records. If a change~~  
16           ~~is made, the registrar shall~~ mail a new voter identification information card to the  
17           voter using the corrected address provided and an address confirmation ~~card~~ notice  
18           as provided in R.S. 18:193. ~~In the event~~ If the new voter identification information  
19           card using the corrected address is returned to the registrar and the voter has failed  
20           to return the address confirmation ~~card~~ notice, the registrar shall consider the address  
21           not corrected. His records should be changed to reflect the prior address on file for  
22           that voter. If the corrected address is outside the parish, the registrar of voters shall  
23           not make the change on his records and shall send an address confirmation notice  
24           ~~card~~ as provided in R.S. 18:193.

25           ~~(2)~~ ~~For a registrant whose address was not verified or whose corrected~~  
26           ~~address is outside the parish, the registrar shall send an address confirmation card as~~  
27           ~~set forth in R.S. 18:193.~~



1 §198. Change of residence or change in address; inquiry by registrar; change of  
2 records

3 A. Whenever a registrar has reason to believe that a registrant has changed  
4 his residence within the parish or that a change has occurred in the registrant's  
5 mailing address within the parish, the registrar shall mail ~~the~~ an address confirmation  
6 ~~card~~ notice to the registrant as provided in R.S. 18:193 ~~as provided in R.S. 18:193(B)~~  
7 ~~to the registrant~~, but shall not place the voter on the inactive list of voters.

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 2. R.S. 18:193(B) and (I) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

10 Section 3. In the case of any conflict between the provisions of this Act and the  
11 provisions of any other Act of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature, the provisions  
12 of this Act shall supercede and control regardless of the order of passage.

13 Section 4. This Act shall become effective on March 31, 2024.

---

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 646 Original

2023 Regular Session

Farnum

**Abstract:** Requires the Dept. of State to conduct a annual canvass of registered voters.

Present law requires each registrar of voters to conduct an annual canvass of registered voters no later than June 30th in order to update voter registration records. Elements of the annual canvass include:

- (1) A requirement that the Dept. of State use the U.S. Postal Service or its licensee to verify names and addresses of registered voters.
- (2) A requirement that the registrar of voters send an address confirmation card to each registrant whose address is not verified or whose corrected address is outside of the parish and place the names of such registrants on the inactive list of voters.

Proposed law requires that either the registrar of voters or the Dept. of State send address confirmation notices.

Proposed law further requires the Dept. of State to conduct an annual canvass no later than June 30th in order to update voter registration records. Elements of the supplemental include:

- (1) A requirement that the secretary of state identify registered voters for whom there is not a corrected address and who have not participated in an election, updated their registration information, or taken other specified actions in the previous 10 years.

- (2) A requirement that the secretary of state send such persons an address confirmation notice and place the names of such registrants on the inactive list of voters.

Effective March 31, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 18:192, 193(H), and 198(A); Adds R.S. 18:191.1; Repeals R.S. 18:193(B) and (I))