
DIGEST

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HB 519 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Carpenter

Abstract: Provides that an eligible incarcerated voter may vote absentee by mail after applying to vote by mail and requires the registrar of voters to collect completed applications and ballots from qualified incarcerated voters.

Present law (R.S. 18:1303(G)) authorizes a person who is incarcerated in an institution inside or outside the parish in which he is qualified to vote but who is not under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony to vote absentee by mail upon certification to the appropriate registrar by the sheriff of the parish where the person is incarcerated that he is not a convicted felon.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:115) requires a registered voter who has registered by mail and has not previously voted in the parish to vote in person either at a location where early voting is conducted or at the precinct in which he is registered to vote.

Proposed law retains present law with the exception that an incarcerated voter who is otherwise authorized by present law to vote absentee by mail is not required to vote in person.

Present law (R.S. 18:1307) authorizes certain voters, including incarcerated qualified voters, to apply by mail for an absentee by mail ballot. Further requires that an application must be received by the registrar not later than 4:30 p.m. on the fourth day prior to the election for which it is requested. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that prior to the deadline provided in present law, the registrar of voters shall collect completed applications to vote by mail for any registered voter who is under the control and custody of the sheriff's office directly from each jail or other location within the jurisdiction of the registrar of voters where a person is placed under the control and custody of the sheriff's office.

Present law (R.S. 18:1308) authorizes eligible voters to return a marked absentee by mail ballot to the registrar of voters. Further requires that all ballots received by the registrar by 4:30 p.m. on the day before election day be counted.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that prior to the deadline provided in present law, the registrar of voters shall collect the absentee by mail ballot of each registered voter who is under the control and custody of the sheriff directly from each jail or other location where an absentee by mail ballot was sent in response to an application to voter by mail pursuant to proposed

law.

(Amends R.S. 1308(B)(1); Adds R.S. 18:115(F)(2)(f), 1307(B)(1)(e), and 1308(B)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Remove provisions authorizing the sheriff to deliver completed applications and ballots to the registrar of voters.
2. Add provisions requiring the registrar of voters to collect completed applications and ballots from qualified incarcerated voters.