

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 347

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREEN

ELECTION DAYS: Extends the duration of the early voting period

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(a)(i) and (b)(ii), (2), and (4), (B)(1), and
3 (M)(1)(a) and 1400.8, relative to early voting; to provide for two weeks of early
4 voting; to provide for early voting on Sunday during the early voting period; to
5 provide for the expense of conducting early voting on Sunday; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(a)(i) and (b)(ii), (2), and (4), (B)(1), and (M)(1)(a)
9 and 1400.8 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §1309. Early voting; verification

11 A.(1)(a)(i) The period for conducting early voting shall be from ~~fourteen~~
12 twenty-one days to seven days prior to any scheduled election. ~~However, for the~~
13 ~~presidential election, the period for conducting early voting shall be from eighteen~~
14 ~~days to seven days prior to the presidential election.~~

15 * * *

16 (b)

17 * * *

18 (ii) The additional day shall be the first day preceding the period described
19 in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph that is not a ~~Sunday~~ or a holiday required to be
20 observed pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

1 requirements of this Section becomes available. Such temporary office shall be
2 located within the parish, or if there is no appropriate location within the parish due
3 to the emergency, then in an immediately adjacent parish, or if there is no
4 appropriate location in any immediately adjacent parish due to the emergency, then
5 in the nearest parish in which there is an appropriate location.

6 * * *

7 M.(1)(a) In a parish where early voting is conducted at an additional location
8 pursuant to R.S. 18:1309.2, the registrar may fix the days during which early voting
9 shall be conducted at the additional location during the early voting period, with the
10 approval of the secretary of state, at least ~~thirty~~ thirty-five days prior to a primary
11 election and ~~twenty-one~~ twenty-eight days prior to a general election.

12 * * *

13 §1400.8. Expenses incurred by registrars of voters conducting early voting; payment
14 by secretary of state

15 Election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters and his permanent
16 employees to perform election duties and responsibilities associated with early
17 voting on any day during the week between 4:30 p.m. and the time that early voting
18 terminates that day and on any Saturday or Sunday on which early voting is
19 conducted shall be paid by the state from funds appropriated to the secretary of state
20 for that purpose and shall be a reimbursable election expense as provided by R.S.
21 18:1400.2.

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 347 Original

2024 Regular Session

Green

Abstract: Extends the early voting period to last for two weeks, inclusive of Sundays.

Present law provides the period for conducting early voting shall be from 14 days to seven days prior to any scheduled election. Further provides that for the presidential election, the period for conducting early voting shall be from 18 days to seven days prior to the presidential election.

Proposed law provides the period for conducting early voting shall be from 21 to seven days prior to any scheduled election.

Present law provides that during the early voting period, the registrar of voters shall maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Proposed law instead requires the registrar of voters to remain open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on each day, including Saturdays and Sundays, during the early voting period.

Present law provides that the registrar shall observe holidays which are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments during any period to conduct early voting.

Proposed law excepts Sundays and Saturdays from the legal holidays that the registrar is required to observe.

Present law provides for the designation of a branch or additional office for purposes of conducting early voting in certain circumstances. Further provides that the days during which early voting may be conducted in the branch or additional office shall be fixed by the registrar, with the approval of the secretary of state, at least 30 days prior to a primary election and 21 days prior to a general election.

Proposed law instead requires that the approval of dates occur at least 35 days prior to a primary election and 28 days prior to a general election.

Present law provides that election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters and his permanent employees to perform election duties and responsibilities associated with early voting on any day during the week between 4:30 p.m. and the time that early voting terminates that day and on any Saturday on which early voting is conducted shall be paid by the state from funds appropriated to the secretary of state for that purpose and shall be a reimbursable election expense.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides the same for any Sunday on which early voting is conducted.

(Amends R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(a)(i) and (b)(ii), (2), and (4), (B)(1), and (M)(1)(a) and 1400.8)