
DIGEST

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HB 499 Original

2024 Regular Session

Billings

Abstract: Requires notification to the commissioner of elections by the parish board of election supervisors and approval from the commissioner of elections prior to conducting the preparation and verification process for absentee by mail and early voting ballots without a majority of the parish board present.

Present law requires the parish board of election supervisors to conduct the preparation verification, tabulation, and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots in the parish.

Present law requires a majority of the parish board of election supervisors to be present to determine whether an absentee by mail or early voting ballot is invalid and requires the inspection by a candidate of certificates removed from valid absentee by mail and early voting ballots be done in the presence of a majority of the parish board of election supervisors.

If less than a majority of the parish board members are present for the preparation and verification process to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots or to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and no parish board commissioners were previously selected, present law authorizes the members present to select a sufficient number of parish board commissioners three days before the election or on election day, as applicable, to assist in the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots and the tabulation and counting of the ballots.

Proposed law instead requires at least two parish board members to be present to select parish board commissioners to assist in conducting the preparation and verification process. Removes the authorization to select parish board commissioners to count absentee and early voting paper ballots and the requirement that parish commissioners be selected three days before the election.

Proposed law provides that if a majority of the parish board is not present for the preparation and verification process, the board shall give notification to the commissioner of elections that a majority of the members of the board are not present and shall seek approval of the commissioner of elections to continue the preparation and verification process without a majority present prior to conducting the process.

(Amends R.S. 18:1313.1(B))