SLS 24RS-443 ENGROSSED

2024 Regular Session

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SENATE BILL NO. 155

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

VOTERS/VOTING. Provides relative to marking absentee by mail ballots. (8/1/24)

AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1310(C)(1) and 1333(B), relative to marking of absentee by mail ballots; to provide for witness certification requirements; to provide for the 3 4 nursing home early voting program; and to provide for related matters. 5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: Section 1. R.S. 18:1310(C)(1) and 1333(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read 6 7 as follows: 8 §1310. Execution of certificate; marking of ballot; casting vote; assistance 9 10 C.(1) Any person who assists a voter in voting absentee by mail shall execute 11 the acknowledgment on the certificate prepared by the secretary of state, verifying that the person providing the assistance has marked the ballot in the manner dictated 12 13 by the voter, and the signature on the acknowledgment by the person providing assistance may serve as the signature of the witness required by R.S. 14 18:1306(E)(2)(a). No person except the immediate family member of the voter, 15 16 as defined in this Code, shall assist with more than one certificate of a voter.

\$1333. Nursing home early voting program; voting by persons residing in a nursing

home

B. A qualified voter who resides in a nursing home within the parish in which

he is entitled to vote may vote early as provided in this Section during the period

extending at least one week two weeks prior to the beginning day for early voting

through the last day for early voting established by R.S. 18:1309.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SB 155 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Kleinpeter

<u>Present law</u> provides that person who assists a voter in voting absentee by mail shall execute the acknowledgment on the certificate prepared by the secretary of state, verifying that the person providing the assistance has marked the ballot in the manner dictated by the voter, and the signature on the acknowledgment by the person providing assistance may serve as the signature of the witness required by <u>present law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and further provides that no person except the immediate family member of the voter shall assist with more than one certificate of a voter.

<u>Present law</u> provides that a qualified voter who resides in a nursing home within the parish in which he is entitled to vote may vote early at least one week prior to the beginning of early voting through the last day for early voting.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that a qualified voter who resides in a nursing home within the parish in which he is entitled to vote may vote early at least two weeks prior to the beginning of early voting through the last day for early voting.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 18:1310(C)(1) and 1333(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

<u>Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and</u> Governmental Affairs to the original bill

- 1. Provide that no person except an immediate family member is allowed to assist with more than one certificate of a voter.
- 2. Extend the period for early voting in the nursing home early voting program from one week to two weeks.