

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 506

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides relative voter registration applications collected through registration drives

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:18(A)(9) and 1461.7(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:119, relative
3 to voter registration drives; to require registration of persons conducting voter
4 registration drives; to require acknowledgment of the laws relative to voter
5 registration; to provide for the duties of the secretary of state relative thereto; to
6 provide relative to the criminal offense of failing to timely submit a completed voter
7 registration form to a registrar of voters; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:18(A)(9) and 1461.7(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and
10 R.S. 18:119 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §18. Secretary of state; powers and duties

12 A. The secretary of state shall administer the laws relating to custody of
13 voting machines and voter registration, and for this purpose he shall:

14 * * *

15 (9) Provide for the ~~voluntary~~ registration of individuals or entities that
16 conduct voter registration drives in the state of Louisiana.

17 * * *

a voter registration drive to first register with the secretary of state either directly or through a registrar of voters in the manner prescribed by the secretary of state. Requires the registration to include an acknowledgment of the requirements applicable to voter registration activities as well as the election offenses applicable to voter registration and voter registration activities.

Present law prohibits a person from knowingly, willfully, or intentionally failing to submit a completed voter registration application collected through a registration drive to the registrar of voters within 30 days of receipt of the completed application from the applicant.

Proposed law changes the time period a person has to submit the completed form to within 30 days of receipt of the completed application from the applicant, or the date provided in present law (R.S. 18:135(A)(1) for the close of registration records prior to an election), whichever occurs first.

Present law provides that a person who violates present law shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or be imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. On a second offense, or any subsequent offense, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than \$2,500 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. Violations of proposed law are subject to the present law penalties.

(Amends R.S. 18:18(A)(9) and 1461.7(A)(1); Adds R.S. 18:119)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide that an individual or entity that conducts voter registration drives may register with the secretary of state either directly or through a registrar of voters.
2. Change the proposed new deadline to submit a completed voter registration application from no later than the day prior to the close of registration records for the first election that occurs after the completed registration application is collected to no later than the date provided in R.S. 18:135(A)(1) for the close of registration records prior to an election.