

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 476

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON

ELECTIONS/ABSENTEE VOTE: Provides for the delivery of absentee ballots by a person other than the voter

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1308(B)(1), relative to the delivery of absentee by mail
3 ballots; to limit the number of marked ballots that a person may send to the registrar
4 through the United States Postal Service or commercial courier; and to provide for
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1308(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1308. Absentee voting by mail

9 * * *

10 B.(1) The ballot shall be marked as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and returned
11 to the registrar by the United States Postal Service, a commercial courier, or hand
12 delivery. If delivered by other than the voter, a commercial courier, or the United
13 States Postal Service, the registrar shall require that the person making such delivery
14 sign a statement, prepared by the secretary of state, certifying that he has the
15 authorization and consent of the voter to hand deliver the marked ballot. For
16 purposes of this Subsection, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as
17 provided in R.S. 13:3204(D). No person except the immediate family of the voter,
18 as defined in this Code, shall ~~hand deliver~~ submit by any means or send for delivery
19 by the United States Postal Service or commercial courier more than one marked

1 ballot per election to the registrar. Upon its receipt, the registrar shall post the name
2 and precinct of the voter as required by R.S. 18:1311.

3 * * *

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 476 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Carlson

Abstract: Prohibits any person except an immediate family member from sending more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar through the U.S. Postal Service or commercial courier.

Present law authorizes absentee by mail ballots to be returned to the registrar by the U.S. Postal Service, a commercial courier, or hand delivery. Further provides that no person except the immediate family of the voter shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot per election to the registrar.

Proposed law instead provides that no person except the immediate family of the voter shall submit by any means, including sending through the U.S. Postal Service or commercial courier, more than one marked ballot per election.

(Amends R.S. 18:1308(B)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Prohibit multiple submissions by any means, as opposed to by hand delivery.