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DIGEST

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SB 101 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Miguez

Present law provides definitions for terms used in the La. Election Code.

Proposed law adds a definition for the terms "ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting". Provides that such terms mean a method of nominating or electing one or more candidates to an office when:

- (1) Voters rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference.
- (2) Tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each round, one or more candidates are nominated or elected, or a last-place candidate is defeated.
- (3) Votes are transferred from nominated, elected, or defeated candidates to the voter's next-ranked candidate or candidates in order of preference.
- (4) Tabulation ends when a candidate receives the majority of the votes cast or when the number of candidates nominated or elected equals the number of offices to be filled, as applicable.

Proposed law prohibits use of ranked-choice voting or instant runoff voting for determining the election or nomination of any candidate to any local, state, or federal elective office. Proposed law specifies that notwithstanding the prohibition, all votes cast by military and overseas voters by special absentee by mail ballots in accordance with the Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and present law (Title 18) shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of present law (Title 18).

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 18:2(6.1) and 405)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove an exception in the definition of "ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting" to exclude absentee voting by military and overseas voters pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.
2. Specify that votes cast by military and overseas voters by special absentee by mail ballots in accordance with the Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and Title 18 shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of Title 18.