

ACT No. 701

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 506

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:18(A)(9) and 1461.7(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:2(16) and (17), 119, and 1461.2(A)(10), relative to voter registration drives; to require registration of persons conducting voter registration drives; to require acknowledgment of the laws relative to voter registration; to provide for the duties of the secretary of state relative thereto; to provide for definitions; to provide for a criminal offense related to filling out a voter registration form; to provide relative to the criminal offense of failing to timely submit a completed voter registration form to a registrar of voters; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:18(A)(9) and 1461.7(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:2(16) and (17), 119, and 1461.2(A)(10) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2. Definitions

As used in this Code, the following words and terms shall have the meanings hereinafter ascribed to each, unless the context clearly indicates another meaning:

* * *

(16) "Third-party voter registration drive" means the solicitation, distribution, or collection of voter registration applications by a third-party voter registration organization.

(17) "Third-party voter registration organization" means any individual or entity that solicits, distributes, or collects voter registration applications and that is not required by law to do so. "Third-party voter registration organization" shall not include the following:

1 (a) An individual who only seeks to encourage or assist a member of his
2 immediate family in registering to vote.

3 (b) A registrar of voters or employee thereof.

4 (c) The secretary of state or employee thereof who performs election duties.

5 (d) Any other individual or entity required by law to perform voter
6 registration activities.

7 * * *

8 §18. Secretary of state; powers and duties

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

11 * * *

12 (9) Provide for the ~~voluntary~~ registration of ~~individuals or entities~~ third-party
13 voter registration organizations that conduct third-party voter registration drives in
14 the state of Louisiana.

15 * * *

16 §119. Voter registration drives; mandatory registration

17 A. Each third-party voter registration organization that intends to conduct a
18 voter registration drive shall first register with the secretary of state either directly
19 or through a registrar of voters in the manner prescribed by the secretary of state.

20 B. The registration required by this Section shall require acknowledgment
21 of the requirements applicable to voter registration activities as well as the election
22 offenses applicable to voter registration and voter registration activities. The
23 registration required by this Section shall not require a response from the secretary
24 of state.

25 C. This Section shall not apply to a voter registration drive conducted using
26 the electronic voter registration application provided for in R.S. 18:115.1 provided
27 that the third-party voter registration organization only provides access to the
28 electronic voter registration application and does not capture the information
29 provided for any purpose.

30 * * *

1 §1461.2. Election offenses affecting registration and election fraud or forgery;
2 penalties

3 A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

4 * * *

5 (10) Fill out information on another persons's voter registration application,
6 except when providing assistance to an applicant in the manner authorized by this
7 Title.

8 * * *

9 §1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

10 A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

11 (1) Fail to submit to the parish registrar of voters a completed registration
12 application collected through a third-party voter registration drive within thirty days
13 of receipt of the completed application from the applicant or no later than the date
14 provided in R.S. 18:135(A)(1), whichever occurs first.

15 * * *

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____