

ACT No. 712

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 581

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1315(B) and to enact R.S. 18:4 and 1461.7(A)(7), relative to
3 witnessing election documents; to place age requirements on witnesses; to require
4 witnesses to provide certain information; to provide for the grounds to challenge an
5 absentee by mail ballot; to provide for the crime of violating restrictions on
6 witnessing absentee ballot certificates; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:1315(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:4 and
10 1461.7(A)(7) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §4. Witness requirements

12 A. Whenever a document required by or provided for in the Louisiana
13 Election Code is required to be witnessed, the witness shall be at least eighteen years
14 of age.

15 B. Each witness who signs an absentee by mail ballot certificate as required
16 by the Louisiana Election Code shall provide his mailing address in the appropriate
17 space on the certificate.

18 * * *

1 §1315. Challenge of absentee by mail or early voting ballot

2 * * *

3 B. During the preparation and verification process for the counting of
4 absentee by mail and early voting ballots before the election, as applicable, or the
5 counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, any candidate
6 or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector may challenge an
7 absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, other than those grounds specified
8 in R.S. 18:565(A). Failure to include a witness's mailing address on an absentee
9 ballot certificate shall not be grounds to challenge an absentee by mail ballot.

10 * * *

11 §1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

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

13 * * *

14 (7) Witness more than one certificate of a voter who is not an immediate
15 family member in violation of R.S. 18:1306.

16 * * *

17 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____