

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

SB 96

2024 Regular Session

Jenkins

Present law provides that a person who has a valid La. driver's license or special identification card may apply to register to vote or make changes to his existing voter registration by completing and submitting an electronic voter registration application on the secretary of state's website.

Proposed law would have retained present law and would have provided that a person with a valid La. driver's license or special identification card who requires internet access or other assistance may complete the online voter registration application in person at registrar of voters' office in the parish in which they are eligible to vote.

Would have become effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Proposed to amend R.S. 18:115.1(A))

VETO MESSAGE:

"Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 96 of the 2024 Regular Session.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem. Current law provides that the deadline to register to vote is thirty days before an election. R.S. 18:135(A)(1). Current law also allows individuals with a valid Louisiana driver's license or special identification card to register online twenty days before an election. R.S. 18:135(A)(3).

I believe current law adequately allows voters with a Louisiana driver's license or special identification card to register online, without making these additional exceptions. These unnecessary exceptions further convolute election registration deadlines. Furthermore, I believe our state should have a uniform registration deadline of thirty days for all voters.

Additionally, this bill may cause an unfunded mandate on local governments to supply the registrar of voters with the necessary equipment. The fiscal note of the enrolled bill states that this law, " may result in undeterminable one-time increase in Local Fund expenditures for Registrars of Voters to provide assistance to voters registering to vote using the electronic voter registration application." Furthermore, allowing members of the public to access registrar of voters' computer systems could jeopardize their information technology security, which is not acceptable.

This bill creates an unnecessary financial burden on local governments.

For these reasons, Senate Bill 96 will not become law.