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## DIGEST

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HB 577 Original

2025 Regular Session

Deshotel

**Abstract:** Allows for the procurement of voting machines or systems by competitive sealed proposals and the invitation to negotiate in accordance with the Louisiana Procurement Code.

Present law requires the secretary of state to examine voting systems or system components to determine compliance with the certification standards promulgated by rule upon the request of a representative of the maker or supplier of the voting systems or system components. Requires the examination to occur prior to the solicitation of bids. Also requires any voting system or system components to be certified by a laboratory accredited by the United States Election Assistance Commission.

Proposed law requires the examination of voting systems or system components prior to the procurement and use of the voting system or system components. Requires testing of the voting system or system components by a laboratory accredited by the United State Election Assistance Commission. Retains all other provisions of present law.

Present law provides the procurement of voting systems or system components by use of a competitive request for proposal process or public bids. Proposed law changes the allowable methods of procurement to competitive sealed proposals or the invitation to negotiate in accordance with the Louisiana Procurement Code.

Present law establishes the Voting System Commission to evaluate and recommend the type of voting system to be procured. Requires the commission to recommend the type of voting system to the secretary of state to submit for competitive solicitation in accordance with the Louisiana Procurement Code. Requires the commission to submit a report of its findings to the governor and the legislature. Upon receipt of the report, the secretary of state and the office of state procurement shall develop a request for proposals. The secretary shall also promulgate certification standards for the type of voting system to be procured.

Proposed law requires the commission to recommend the type of voting system to the secretary of state to submit for procurement, rather than competitive solicitation. Upon receipt of the report from the commission, the secretary of state and the office of state procurement shall develop the best method of procurement based upon the recommendations. Proposed law retains all other provisions of present law.

Present law establishes the Voting System Evaluation Committee in order to review any proposals received by the secretary of state. The committee is required to investigate and test the voting

systems proposed by the respondents to the request for proposals. The committee is also required to score each proposal. The committee is required to recommend the highest-scoring proposal and to communicate that recommendation to the secretary of state. The secretary of state is required to make a recommendation and submit the same to the chief procurement officer.

Proposed law requires the committee to review any proposals or responses to an invitation to negotiate received by the secretary of state. The committee is required to investigate and test the voting systems proposed by potential vendors. The committee is also required to score each proposal or response to the invitation to negotiate. The committee is required to make a recommendation and notify the secretary of state. Proposed law retains all other provisions of present law.

Proposed law provides for the legal and contractual remedies for the procurement of voting systems or systems components.

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

(Amends R.S. 18:1361(A) and (B), 1362(A)(1), 1362.1(I)(1) and (K), and 1362.2(A) and (C); Adds R.S. 1367 through 1367.16)