

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 577

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VOTING/MACHINES: Provides for the procurement of voting systems

## 1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1361(A) and (B), 1362(A)(1), 1362.1(I)(1) and (K), and  
3 1362.2(A) and (C) and to enact Subpart B of Part II of Chapter 8 of Title 18, to be  
4 comprised of R.S. 18:1367.1 through 1367.14, relative to procurement of voting  
5 systems or system components; to provide relative to the allowable methods of  
6 procurement; to provide relative to the approval of voting systems; to provide  
7 relative to the Voting System Commission and its powers and duties; to provide  
8 relative to the Voting System Proposal Evaluation Committee and its powers and  
9 duties; to provide for the authority and duties of the secretary of state; to provide for  
10 the authority and duties of the commissioner of administration and chief procurement  
11 officer with respect to procurement; to provide for legal and contractual remedies  
12 and for administrative appeals relative to such procurements; to provide for the  
13 authority of the Louisiana Law Institute; to provide for an effective date; and to  
14 provide for related matters.

15 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

16 Section 1. R.S. 18:1361(A) and (B), 1362(A)(1), 1362.1(I)(1) and (K), and 1362.2(A)  
17 and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and Subpart B of Part II of Chapter 8 of Title 18,  
18 comprised of R.S. 18:1367.1 through 1367.14, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

## SUBPART A. PROCUREMENT AND ALLOCATION OF VOTING SYSTEMS

§1361. Approval of voting systems or system components; certificate; expenses of examination

A. Prior to the solicitation of bids for procurement and use of any new voting system, the secretary of state shall examine any type or make of voting system or system component upon the request of a representative of the maker or supplier thereof for compliance with the certification standards promulgated pursuant to R.S. 18:1353. If the secretary of state determines that the voting system or system component complies with the certification standards, he shall approve that voting system or system component for use in this state and shall issue his certificate of approval thereof.

B. In addition to meeting any applicable certification standards, any voting system or system component procured or used in the state must have been certified according to the voluntary voting system guidelines developed and maintained by the United States Election Assistance Commission upon testing conducted by a voting system test laboratory accredited by the United States Election Assistance Commission. This certificate, together with any relevant reports, drawings, and photographs, shall be a public record.

\* \* \*

§1362. Method of procuring voting systems or system components; parts and supplies; contracting for the maintenance of voting machines

A.(1) All voting systems or system components used in this state shall be procured by the secretary of state, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Voting System Commission as provided in R.S. 18:1362.1, out of state funds appropriated for that purpose, ~~on the basis of a competitive request for proposals process or public bids submitted to the secretary of state~~ on the basis of competitive sealed proposals or the invitation to negotiate in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code. Required specifications shall include tests and examinations of the operation of the voting systems or system components, and the

1 secretary of state, for that purpose, shall employ experts to conduct these  
2 examinations in accordance with R.S. 18:1361 and report the results thereof to the  
3 Voting System Commission. The expenses of the services of these experts shall be  
4 paid by the vendor that seeks to have its system certified for consideration. In every  
5 respect, the procurement of voting systems or system components shall be in  
6 accordance with the Louisiana Procurement Code.

7 \* \* \*

8 §1362.1. Voting System Commission; creation and organization; duties and  
9 responsibilities

10 \* \* \*

11 I.(1) After complying with the provisions of Subsection H of this Section,  
12 the commission shall determine the type of voting system to recommend to the  
13 secretary of state to submit ~~for competitive solicitation~~ for procurement in  
14 accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Procurement Code.

15 \* \* \*

16 K. Upon receipt of the report, the secretary of state, working in conjunction  
17 with the office of state procurement, shall develop ~~a request for proposals~~ the best  
18 method of procurement taking into consideration the commission's  
19 recommendations. No later than thirty days prior to the issuance of the request for  
20 proposals or the issuance of an invitation to negotiate, the secretary shall promulgate  
21 certification standards for the type of voting system to be procured in accordance  
22 with the provisions of R.S. 18:1353.

23 \* \* \*

24 §1362.2. Voting System Proposal Evaluation Committee; membership; duties

25 A. The Voting System Proposal Evaluation Committee is created and  
26 established within the Department of State for the purpose of independently  
27 reviewing any proposals or responses to an invitation to negotiate received by the  
28 secretary of state in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:1362.1.

29 \* \* \*

1 C. The committee shall investigate and publicly test the voting systems  
2 proposed by ~~the respondents to the request for proposals~~ potential vendors and may  
3 utilize subject matter experts to assist in the investigation. Upon completion of the  
4 investigation, the committee shall ~~score~~ evaluate each proposal or response to an  
5 invitation to negotiate according to the ~~request for proposal procurement~~ criteria,  
6 which shall ensure that all proposals or responses to an invitation to negotiate are  
7 evaluated in a fair and balanced manner and provide equal consideration for all  
8 potential vendors without exception. ~~The highest-scoring proposal shall receive the~~  
9 ~~recommendation of the committee. The recommendation shall be communicated to~~  
10 ~~the secretary of state. The committee shall make a recommendation and notify the~~  
11 secretary of state. The secretary of state shall then make a recommendation and  
12 submit the proposal to the chief procurement officer for subsequent review, approval,  
13 or further inquiry in accordance with the Louisiana Procurement Code.

14 \* \* \*

15 SUBPART B. LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL REMEDIES FOR THE  
16 PROCUREMENT OF VOTING SYSTEMS

17 §1367.1. Applicability of Subpart; definitions

18 A. To the extent any provisions of this Subpart regarding legal and  
19 contractual remedies for the procurement of voting systems conflict with any  
20 provision of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the provisions of this  
21 Subpart shall supersede and control.

22 B. As used in this Subpart, "commissioner" means the commissioner of  
23 administration.

24 §1367.2. Authority to resolve protested solicitations and awards

25 A. Right to protest. Any person who is aggrieved in connection with the  
26 solicitation or award of a contract of a voting system or system components issued  
27 by the applicable chief procurement officer shall protest to the chief procurement  
28 officer. Protests with respect to a solicitation shall be submitted in writing at least

1        ten days prior to the opening of bids. Protests with respect to the award of a contract  
2        shall be submitted in writing within fourteen days after contract award.

3                B. Authority to resolve protests. The chief procurement officer or his  
4        designee shall have authority, prior to the commencement of an action in court  
5        concerning the controversy, to settle and resolve a protest of an aggrieved person  
6        concerning the solicitation or award of a contract. This authority shall be exercised  
7        in accordance with regulations promulgated pursuant to R.S. 39:1671(H).

8                C. Decision. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the chief  
9        procurement officer or his designee shall, within seven days, issue a decision in  
10       writing. The decision shall:

11                (1) State the reasons for the action taken.

12                (2) Inform the protestant of its right to administrative and judicial review as  
13       provided in this Subpart.

14                D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this  
15       Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the protestant and any  
16       other party intervening.

17                E. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection C of this Section shall  
18       be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

19                (1) The decision is fraudulent.

20                (2) The person adversely affected by the decision has timely appealed  
21       administratively to the commissioner in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.6.

22                F. Stay of procurements during protests. In the event of a timely protest  
23       under Subsection A of this Section, the state shall not proceed further with the  
24       solicitation or with the awarding of the contract unless the chief procurement officer  
25       makes a written determination that the awarding of the contract is necessary without  
26       delay to protect the substantial interests of the state. Upon such determination by the  
27       chief procurement officer, no court shall enjoin progress under the award except after  
28       notice and hearing.

29                G. Award of costs to protestants. In addition to any other relief, when the  
30       protest is administratively or judicially sustained and the protesting bidder or

1 proposer should have been awarded the contract but is not, the protesting bidder or  
2 proposer shall be entitled to the reasonable costs incurred in connection with the  
3 solicitation, including bid or proposal preparation costs other than attorney fees,  
4 provided that any administrative determination of such costs shall be subject to the  
5 written concurrence of the attorney general.

6 §1367.3. Authority to debar or suspend

7 A. Applicability. This Section applies to a debarment, as defined in R.S.  
8 39:1556(18), for cause from consideration for award of contracts or a suspension  
9 from such consideration during an investigation where there is probable cause for  
10 such a debarment.

11 B. Authority. After reasonable notice to the person involved and reasonable  
12 opportunity for that person to be heard, the chief procurement officer shall have  
13 authority to suspend or debar a person for cause from consideration for award of  
14 contracts, provided that doing so is in the best interests of the state. The causes for  
15 debarment are set forth in Subsection C of this Section. The chief procurement  
16 officer may suspend a person from consideration for award of contracts if he  
17 determines that there is probable cause to believe that such person has engaged in  
18 any activity which might lead to debarment. The suspension shall not be for a period  
19 exceeding six months. The authority to debar or suspend shall be exercised in  
20 accordance with regulations as provided in R.S. 39:1673(B).

21 C. Causes for debarment. The causes for debarment include the following:

22 (1) Conviction for commission of a criminal offense as an incident to  
23 obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the  
24 performance of such contract or subcontract.

25 (2) Conviction under state or federal statutes of embezzlement, theft, forgery,  
26 bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, or any other  
27 offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty which currently,  
28 seriously, and directly affects responsibility as a contractor.

29 (3) Conviction under state or federal antitrust statutes arising out of the  
30 submission of bids or proposals.

1           (4) Violation of contract provisions, as set forth below, of a character which  
2           is regarded by the chief procurement officer to be so serious as to justify debarment  
3           action:

4           (a) Deliberate failure without good cause to perform in accordance with the  
5           specifications or within the time limit provided in the contract.

6           (b) A recent record of failure to perform or of unsatisfactory performance in  
7           accordance with the terms of one or more contracts; provided that failure to perform  
8           or unsatisfactory performance caused by acts beyond the control of the contractor  
9           shall not be considered to be a basis for debarment.

10           (5) Any other cause the chief procurement officer determines to be so serious  
11           and compelling as to affect responsibility as a state contractor, including debarment  
12           by another governmental entity for any cause listed in regulations.

13           (6) Violation of the ethical standards set forth in Chapter 15 of Title 42.

14           D. Decision. The chief procurement officer shall issue a written decision to  
15           debar or suspend. The decision shall:

16           (1) State the reasons for the action taken.

17           (2) Inform the debarred or suspended person involved of its rights to  
18           administrative and judicial review as provided in this Subpart.

19           E. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection D of this  
20           Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the debarred or  
21           suspended person and any other party intervening.

22           F. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection D of this Section shall  
23           be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

24           (1) The decision is fraudulent.

25           (2) The debarred or suspended person has timely appealed administratively  
26           to the commissioner in accordance with R.S. 18:167.10.

27           §1367.4. Authority to resolve contract and breach of contract controversies other  
28           than professional, personal, consulting, and social services contracts

29           A. Applicability. This Section applies to controversies between the state and  
30           a contractor and which arise under or by virtue of a contract between them. This

1 includes without limitation controversies based upon breach of contract, mistake,  
2 misrepresentation, or other cause for contract modification or rescission. Any  
3 contractor who seeks a remedy with regard to such controversy shall file a complaint  
4 with the chief procurement officer.

5 B. Authority. The chief procurement officer or his designee is authorized,  
6 prior to the commencement of an action in court concerning the controversy, to settle  
7 and resolve, with the approval of the attorney general, a controversy described in  
8 Subsection A of this Section. This authority shall be exercised in accordance with  
9 regulations.

10 C. Decision. If such a claim or controversy is not resolved by mutual  
11 agreement, the chief procurement officer or his designee shall promptly issue a  
12 decision in writing. The decision shall do all of the following:

13 (1) State the reasons for the action taken.

14 (2) Inform the contractor of its right to administrative and judicial review as  
15 provided in this Subpart.

16 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this  
17 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the contractor.

18 E. Finality of decision. The decision under Subsection C of this Section  
19 shall be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

20 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

21 (2) The contractor has timely appealed administratively to the commissioner  
22 in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.8.

23 F. Failure to render timely decision. If the chief procurement officer or his  
24 designee does not issue the written decision required under Subsection C of this  
25 Section within sixty days after written request for a final decision, or within such  
26 longer period as may be agreed upon by the parties, then the contractor may proceed  
27 as if an adverse decision had been received.

28 §1367.5. Authority of the commissioner of administration

29 The commissioner of administration shall have the authority to review and  
30 determine any appeal by an aggrieved person from a determination by the state chief



1 procurement officer or his designee which is authorized by R.S. 18:1367 or R.S.  
2 18:1367.1.

3 §1367.6. Protest of solicitations or awards

4 A. Scope. This Section applies to an appeal addressed to the commissioner  
5 of a decision under R.S. 18:1367.2(C).

6 B. Time limitation on filing an appeal. The aggrieved person shall file an  
7 appeal within seven days of receipt of a decision under R.S. 18:1367.2(C).

8 C. Decision. On any appeal under Subsection A of this Section, the  
9 commissioner or his designee shall decide within seven days whether the solicitation  
10 or award was in accordance with the constitution, statutes, regulations, and the terms  
11 and conditions of the solicitation. The seven-day period provided for in this  
12 Subsection shall not be extended. Any prior determinations by the state chief  
13 procurement officer or his designee shall not be final or conclusive.

14 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this  
15 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the protestant or any  
16 other party intervening.

17 E. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection C of this Section shall  
18 be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

19 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

20 (2) The person adversely affected by the decision has timely appealed to the  
21 court in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.9(A).

22 §1367.7. Suspension or debarment proceedings

23 A. Scope. This Section applies to a review by the commissioner of a  
24 decision under R.S. 18:1367.3.

25 B. Time limitation on filing an appeal. The aggrieved person shall file an  
26 appeal with the commissioner within seven days of the receipt of a decision under  
27 R.S. 18:1367.2(D).

28 C. Decision. The commissioner or his designee shall decide within seven  
29 days whether, or the extent to which, the debarment or suspension was in accordance  
30 with the constitution, statutes, regulations, and the best interests of the state, and was

1 fair. Any prior determination by the state chief procurement officer or his designee  
2 shall not be final or conclusive.

3 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this  
4 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the debarred or  
5 suspended person or any other party interviewing.

6 E. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection C of this Section shall  
7 be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

8 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

9 (2) The debarred or suspended person has timely appealed an adverse  
10 decision of the commissioner to the court in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.9(B).

11 §1367.8. Contract and breach of contract controversies

12 A. Scope. This Section applies to a review by the commissioner of a  
13 decision under R.S. 18:1367.4.

14 B. Time limitation on filing an appeal. The aggrieved contractor shall file  
15 an appeal with the commissioner within seven days of the receipt of the  
16 determination under R.S. 18:1367.4(C).

17 C. Decision. The commissioner or his designee shall decide within seven  
18 days the contract or breach of contract controversy. Any prior determination by the  
19 state chief procurement officer or his designee shall not be final or conclusive.

20 D. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision under Subsection C of this  
21 Section shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the contractor.

22 E. Finality of decision. A decision under Subsection C of this Section shall  
23 be final and conclusive unless one of the following applies:

24 (1) The decision is fraudulent.

25 (2) The contractor has timely appealed an adverse decision of the  
26 commissioner to the court in accordance with R.S. 18:1367.9(C).

27 §1367.9. Actions by or against the state in connection with contracts

28 A. Solicitation and award of contracts. The Nineteenth Judicial District  
29 Court shall have exclusive venue over an action between the state and a bidder,  
30 offeror, or contractor, prospective or actual, to determine whether a solicitation or

1 award of a contract is in accordance with the constitution, statutes, regulations, and  
2 the terms and conditions of the solicitation. Such actions shall extend to all kinds of  
3 actions, whether for monetary damages or for declaratory, injunctive, or other  
4 equitable relief.

5 B. Debarment or suspension. The Nineteenth Judicial District Court shall  
6 have exclusive venue over an action between the state and a person who is subject  
7 to a suspension or debarment proceeding, to determine whether the debarment or  
8 suspension is in accordance with the constitution, statutes, and regulations. Such  
9 actions shall extend to actions for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable relief.

10 C. Actions under contracts or for breach of contract. The Nineteenth Judicial  
11 District Court shall have exclusive venue over an action between the state and a  
12 contractor who contracts with the state, for any cause of action which arises under  
13 or by virtue of the contract, whether the action is on the contract or for a breach of  
14 the contract or whether the action is for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable  
15 relief.

16 D. Limited finality for administrative determinations. In any judicial action  
17 under this Section, factual or legal determination by employees, agents, or other  
18 persons appointed by the state shall have no finality and shall not be conclusive,  
19 notwithstanding any contract provision, regulation, or rule of law to the contrary,  
20 except to the extent provided in R.S. 18:1367.2(E), 1367.3(F), 1367.4(E), 1367.6(E),  
21 1367.7(E), and 1367.8(E).

22 E. Writs or appeals; district court decisions. Any party aggrieved by a final  
23 judgment or interlocutory order or ruling of the Nineteenth Judicial District Court  
24 may appeal or seek review thereof, as the case may be, to the Court of Appeal, First  
25 Circuit or the Supreme Court of Louisiana, as otherwise permitted in civil cases by  
26 law and the constitution.

27 §1367.10. Commencement of actions

28 A. Protested solicitations and awards. Any action under R.S. 18:1367.9(A)  
29 shall be commenced within fourteen days after receipt of the decision of the  
30 commissioner under R.S. 18:1367.6(C).

1           B. Debarments and suspension for cause. Any action under R.S.  
2           18:1367.9(B) shall be commenced within sixty days after receipt of the decision of  
3           the commissioner under R.S. 18:1367.7(C).

4           C. Actions under contracts or for breach of contract controversies. Any  
5           action under R.S. 18:1367.9(C) shall be commenced within sixty days after receipt  
6           of the decision of the commissioner under R.S. 18:1367.8(C).  
7           §1367.11. Trial; decision; appeal

8           A.(1) Actions objecting to the solicitation or award of a contract pursuant to  
9           this Subpart shall be tried summarily, without a jury, and in open court. The trial  
10          shall begin no later than fourteen days after suit is filed.

11          B. In all actions, the trial judge shall render judgment within seven days after  
12          the case is submitted to him and shall indicate the date and time rendered on the  
13          judgment. The clerk of the trial court shall immediately notify all parties or their  
14          counsel of record by telephone and/or facsimile transmission of the judgment.

15          C. Within twenty-four hours after rendition of judgment, a party aggrieved  
16          by the judgment may appeal by obtaining an order of appeal and giving bond for a  
17          sum fixed by the court to secure the payment of costs. The clerk of the trial court  
18          shall give notice of the order of appeal to the clerk of the court of appeal and to all  
19          the parties or their counsel of record. The trial judge shall fix the return day at a time  
20          not to exceed three days after rendition of judgment.

21          D. The clerk of the trial court shall prepare the record on appeal and transmit  
22          it to the clerk of the court of appeal on the return day.

23          E. Immediately upon receipt of the record the clerk of the court of appeal  
24          shall notify the parties and the case shall be heard no later than forty-eight hours after  
25          the record is lodged with the court of appeal. Judgment shall be rendered within  
26          twenty-four hours after the case is argued. The court of appeal shall indicate the date  
27          and time rendered on the judgment. The clerk of the court of appeal shall  
28          immediately notify all parties or their counsel of record by telephone and/or  
29          facsimile transmission of the judgment.

1                   F. An application to the supreme court for a writ of certiorari shall be made  
2                   within forty-eight hours after judgment is rendered by the court of appeal.

3                   G. The appellate court may sit in panels of three or more as directed by the  
4                   chief judge.

5                   H. No application for a new trial or for a rehearing shall be entertained by  
6                   any court, but a court, upon its own motion, may correct manifest error to which its  
7                   attention is called.

8                   I. As used in this Subpart, judgment shall be deemed to have been rendered  
9                   when signed by the judge.

10                  §1367.12. Computation of time

11                  Computation of all time intervals in this Chapter shall include Sundays and  
12                  other legal holidays. However, if the time interval ends on a Sunday or other legal  
13                  holiday, then noon of the next legal day shall be deemed to be the end of the time  
14                  interval.

15                  §1367.13. Code of Civil Procedure

16                  Any procedural matter not specifically provided for in this Subpart shall be  
17                  governed by the Code of Civil Procedure.

18                  §1367.14. Termination

19                  The provisions of this Subpart shall be null and void and have no effect  
20                  beginning on June 30, 2027.

21                  Section 2. The Louisiana Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to designate  
22                  R.S. 18:1361 through 1366 as Subpart A of Part II of Chapter 8 of Title 18 of the Louisiana  
23                  Revised Statutes of 1950.

24                  Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
25                  signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
26                  by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
27                  vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
28                  effective on the day following such approval.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 577 Engrossed

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 U.S. 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 U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Retains all other provisions of present law.

Present law provides for 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 present law (La. Procurement Code, Title 39).

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 La. 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 changes present law by requiring the commission to recommend the type of voting system to the secretary of state to be acquired via 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 evaluate each proposal and recommend the highest-scoring proposal 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 changes present law by requiring 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 evaluate each proposal or response to the invitation to negotiate and to make a recommendation to the secretary of state. Proposed law retains all other provisions of present law.

Present law (La. Procurement Code, Title 39) provides for legal and contractual remedies relative to the procurement of all property by the state. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides for the legal and contractual remedies specifically for the procurement of voting systems or systems components in present law (La. Election Code, Title 18). Proposed law provides for shortening delays for the appeal of and determinations on the appeal related to a protest, debarment, or contract controversy from 14 days for each action as provided in proposed law to seven days for each action.

Proposed law provides for the judicial procedures relative to the procurement of voting systems. Provides that an action objecting to the solicitation or award of a contract shall be tried summarily to begin no later than 14 days after suit is filed and that the judge shall render judgment within seven days after the case is submitted to him. Provides procedures and timelines for the appeal of the judgment and for the computation of time.

Terminates the provisions of proposed law related to the legal and contractual remedies for the procurement of voting systems beginning June 30, 2027.

Effective upon signature of 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. 18:1367.1 through 1367.14)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide that legal and contractual remedies for the procurement of voting systems in proposed law shall supersede certain provisions in present law with respect to the procurement code.
2. Terminate provisions of proposed law related to the legal and contractual remedies for the procurement of voting systems on June 30, 2027.
3. Remove provisions of proposed law regarding remedies prior to and after an award of a contract, penalties for violations, and the authority of the secretary of state to review and determine appeals of decisions of the chief procurement officer thereby retaining these provisions in present law (La. Procurement Code).
4. Remove provisions in proposed law providing for legal and contractual remedies that apply to *all* legal disputes involving procurement and not just disputes involving the procurement of voting systems.
5. Shorten the time period in which the commissioner of administration is required to make a decision on an administrative appeal from 14 days to seven days.
6. Prohibit the seven day time period for the commissioner of administration to make a decision in an administrative appeal from being extended.
7. Make technical changes.