Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 501

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for voter registration at age sixteen

1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 18:101(A), 114(B)(1), and 173(A) and (D)(1), relative to voter

3   registration; to provide for the "Louisiana Preregistration Voting Act"; to provide

4   relative to qualifications for voter registration; to allow persons who are least sixteen

5   years of age to register to vote; to provide relative to voter registration at driver's

6   license facilities; to provide relative to certain reports to election officials concerning

7   deaths; and to provide for related matters.

8   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9   Section 1.   This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana

10   Preregistration Voting Act".

11   Section 2. R.S. 18:101(A), 114(B)(1), and 173(A) and (D)(1) are hereby amended

12   and reenacted to read as follows:

13   §101. Registration to vote; qualifications; more than one residence; presidential

14   elections

15   A.(1) Every citizen of Louisiana who is at least ~~eighteen~~ sixteen years of

16   age~~,~~ ~~or will attain that age on or before the next election,~~ is an actual bona fide

17   resident of this state~~,~~ and the parish, municipality, if any, and precinct in which he

18   offers to register as a voter~~,~~; is not disfranchised~~,~~; and who complies with the

19   provisions of this Chapter shall be eligible to register to vote in local, state, and

20   national elections held in this state.

21   ~~(2) Any person age seventeen and who is otherwise qualified to vote may~~

22   ~~register to vote at any time prior to the first election at which he shall have attained~~

1   the age of eighteen years. However, no one, under the age of eighteen years shall be

2   permitted to vote in any election.

3   *   *   *

4   §114. Registration at driver's license facilities

5   *   *   *

6   B.(1) Each application to obtain, renew, or change the name or address on

7   a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety and

8   Corrections made by an applicant who is eighteen years or older shall also serve as

9   an application for voter registration by the applicant unless the applicant declines to

10   register to vote through specific declination or by failing to sign the voter registration

11   application. In addition, any person who is at least sixteen years of age seventeen

12   may register to vote at any time prior to the first election at which he shall have

13   attained the age of eighteen years. However, no one under the age of eighteen years

14   shall be permitted to vote in any election.

15   *   *   *

16   §173. Deaths

17   A. By the tenth day of each month, the secretary of the Department of Health

18   and Hospitals shall send to the registrar in each parish a report, certified as correct

19   over his signature or the signature of his authorized representative, containing the

20   name, address, and sex of each person of at least seventeen sixteen years of age who

21   died in the parish within the preceding calendar month.

22   *   *   *

23   D.(1) By the tenth day of each month, the secretary of the Department of

24   Health and Hospitals shall send to the Department of State a report, certified as

25   correct over his signature or the signature of his authorized representative, containing

26   the name, address, date of birth, sex, and social security number, as such information

1   exists in the database of the Department of Health and Hospitals, of any person

2   ~~seventeen~~ sixteen years of age or older who died in each parish of the state within the

3   preceding calendar month.

4   *   *   *

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)]

Wesley Bishop   HB No. 501

Abstract: Allows persons who are least sixteen years of age to register to vote.

Present law (R.S. 18:101) provides that every citizen of La. who is at least 18 years of age and meets certain other requirements shall be eligible to vote. Provides, however, that any person who is 17 years old who is otherwise qualified to vote may register to vote at any time prior to the first election at which the person shall have attained the age of 18.

Proposed law repeals provisions of present law relative to registration by a person who is 17 years old and provides that every citizen of La. who is at least 16 years of age and who meets the other requirements of present law may register to vote.

Present law provides that no one under the age of 18 may vote in any election. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:114) provides for voter registration at driver's license facilities. Provides procedures and requirements. Provides that any person age 17 may register to vote at any time prior to the first election at which he attains the age of 18 years.

Proposed law provides that any person who is at least 16 years of age, instead of 17 years of age, may register to vote at any time prior to the first election at which he attains the age of 18 years. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:173) provides for reporting by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals regarding deaths. Requires the department to send a report each month to the registrar in each parish regarding persons in the parish who died in the preceding month and to the Dept. of State regarding persons in each parish in the state who died in the preceding month.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the reports shall include information concerning persons who were at least 17 years of age. Proposed law instead provides that the reports shall include information concerning persons who were at least 16 years of age.

(Amends R.S. 18:101(A), 114(B)(1), and 173(A) and (D)(1))