

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 501

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for voter registration at age sixteen upon application for a driver's license

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:114(B)(1) and 173(A) and (D)(1) and to enact R.S.
3 18:101(A)(3), relative to voter registration; to provide for the "Louisiana Motor
4 Voter Preregistration Act"; to provide relative to qualifications for voter registration;
5 to allow persons who are sixteen years of age to register to vote under certain
6 circumstances; to provide relative to voter registration at driver's license facilities;
7 to provide relative to certain reports to election officials concerning deaths; and to
8 provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Motor Voter
11 Preregistration Act".

12 Section 2. R.S. 18:114(B)(1) and 173(A) and (D)(1) are hereby amended and
13 reenacted and R.S. 18:101(A)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §101. Registration to vote; qualifications; more than one residence; presidential
15 elections

16 A.

17 * * *

18 (3) A person who is sixteen years of age may register to vote in the manner
19 provided in R.S. 18:114(B)(1). However, no one under the age of eighteen years
20 shall be permitted to vote in any election.

21 * * *

1 §114. Registration at driver's license facilities

2 * * *

3 B.(1) Each application to obtain, renew, or change the name or address on
4 a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety and
5 Corrections made by an applicant who is eighteen years or older shall also serve as
6 an application for voter registration by the applicant unless the applicant declines to
7 register to vote through specific declination or by failing to sign the voter registration
8 application. Each application to obtain a driver's license issued by the Department
9 of Public Safety and Corrections made by an applicant who is sixteen years old shall
10 also serve as an application for voter registration by the applicant unless the
11 applicant declines to register to vote through specific declination or by failing to sign
12 the voter registration application. In addition, any person age seventeen may register
13 to vote at any time prior to the first election at which he shall have attained the age
14 of eighteen years. However, no one under the age of eighteen years shall be
15 permitted to vote in any election.

16 * * *

17 §173. Deaths

18 A. By the tenth day of each month, the secretary of the Department of Health
19 and Hospitals shall send to the registrar in each parish a report, certified as correct
20 over his signature or the signature of his authorized representative, containing the
21 name, address, and sex of each person of at least ~~seventeen~~ sixteen years of age who
22 died in the parish within the preceding calendar month.

23 * * *

24 D.(1) By the tenth day of each month, the secretary of the Department of
25 Health and Hospitals shall send to the Department of State a report, certified as
26 correct over his signature or the signature of his authorized representative, containing
27 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 * * *

5 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2015.

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 a person who is sixteen years of age to register to vote by making application in connection with an application to obtain a driver's license.

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. Provides that no one under the age of 18 may vote in any election.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that a person who is 16 years of age may register to vote in the manner provided in proposed law. However, provides that no one under the age of 18 years shall be permitted to vote in any election.

Present law (R.S. 18:114) provides for voter registration at driver's license facilities. Provides that each application to obtain, renew, or change the name or address on a driver's license or identification card issued by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections made by an applicant who is 18 years or older shall also serve as an application for voter registration by the applicant unless the applicant declines to register to vote through specific declination or by failing to sign the voter registration application. Provides that in addition, 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. Provides that no one under the age of 18 years shall be permitted to vote in any election.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that each application to obtain a driver's license issued by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections made by an applicant who is 16 years old shall also serve as an application for voter registration by the applicant unless the applicant declines to register to vote through specific declination or by failing to sign the voter registration application.

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 of voters 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.

Effective Jan. 1, 2015.

(Amends R.S. 18:114(B)(1) and 173(A) and (D)(1); Adds R.S. 18:101(A)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Limits proposed law voter registration by a person who is 16 years old by providing that such a person may register to vote only by applying to obtain a driver's license issued by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.
2. Provides that proposed law becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2015.
3. Provides that proposed law shall be known as the "Louisiana Motor Voter Preregistration Act" instead of the "Louisiana Preregistration Voting Act".