
DIGEST

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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".