
DIGEST

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HB 877 Original

2016 Regular Session

Hunter

Abstract: Adds the third Sat. prior to the election to the early voting period and repeals provisions allowing the registrar to determine the time during which early voting takes place at certain locations.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309) provides that the early voting period for an election is the period from 14 days to seven days prior to the election. Requires the office of the registrar to be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mon. through Sat. on each day that the registrar is required to be open during the early voting period. Provides that early voting on each day of the early voting period terminates when all persons who were in line to vote at the close of the regular office hours of the registrar's office have been allowed to vote.

Proposed law adds the third Sat. prior to an election to the early voting period. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law requires the registrar to take all reasonable steps prior to an election to make as many people in the parish as possible aware of the days, hours, and locations for early voting in the parish, including without limitation by issuing press releases to local news services and other media outlets and, if the registrar has a website, by posting notice on the registrar's website. Provides that at a minimum, the registrar shall publish notice of the days, hours, and locations for early voting in the parish at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in the official journal of the parish and in another newspaper with a larger circulation within the parish than the official journal if there is such a newspaper. Provides that such publication shall be completed no later than thirty days prior to the election.

Present law authorizes the registrar to designate one branch office, in addition to the office of the registrar, in a public building where early voting may also be conducted. Authorizes the registrar to designate an additional branch office for early voting in a parish that extends in one direction more than 50 miles and that is interspersed with navigable waters.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309.2) authorizes the secretary of state to develop and implement a program for the conduct of early voting at additional locations within any parish of the state.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes the registrar to fix the hours during which early voting is to be conducted at branch offices and additional locations under certain circumstances. Proposed law repeals present

law and provides that the hours and days during which early voting is conducted at branch offices and additional locations is as provided in present law for the office of the registrar.

(Amends R.S. 18:1309(A)(1), (B)(1), (C), and (M); Adds R.S. 18:1309(N))