

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 297

BY SENATOR PETERSON

ELECTION CODE. Requires election commissioners to attend a uniformed general course of instruction annually. (8/1/16)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:431(A)(1)(a) and 431(B)(1) and (5) and to enact R.S. 18:431(A)(1)(d), relative to the Louisiana Election Code; to provide requirements for serving as a commissioner; to provide requirements for serving as a commissioner-in-charge; to provide for the duties of the commissioners; to provide for the duties of the commissioners-in-charge; to provide policies and procedures for commissioners duties of the clerk of court; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:431(A)(1)(a) and 431(B)(1) and (5) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:431(A)(1)(d) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§431. Commissioners; courses of instruction; certificates; reports; list of certified persons furnished by parish board of election supervisors

A.(1)(a) At least annually the clerk of court shall conduct a general course of instruction for commissioners. **The course shall be a uniformed standardized training course that shall be used to train commissioners in each parish.** Each such course of instruction shall be open to the public, and the clerk shall publicize each course in a manner reasonably calculated to encourage maximum attendance

1 and participation. For informational purposes, the registrar may assist the clerk of  
2 court in conducting the course.

3 \* \* \*

4 **(d) Each person must successfully complete the commissioner training**  
5 **course with a satisfactory score on the test to serve as a commissioner on**  
6 **Election Day.**

7 \* \* \*

8 B.(1) The clerk of court shall conduct a ~~course of instruction for~~ **uniformed**  
9 **standardized training course that shall be used to train** commissioners-in-charge,  
10 commissioners, and alternate commissioners who are selected to serve in each  
11 election. The course shall be held after the selection of these officials but not less  
12 than four days prior to each election. The course shall primarily cover the procedures  
13 to be used in the election for which the officials were selected. The clerk of court  
14 shall instruct the commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, and alternate  
15 commissioners that it is their duty to offer any voter who does not have picture  
16 identification as provided in R.S. 18:562(A) an affidavit to sign to that effect.

17 \* \* \*

18 (5)(a) The clerk of court shall ~~not~~ be required to conduct the **uniformed**  
19 **standardized training** pre-election course of instruction ~~provided for in this~~  
20 ~~Subsection if at least fourteen days prior to the election, the clerk of court mails a~~  
21 ~~notice to each commissioner-in-charge, commissioner, and alternate commissioner~~  
22 ~~who has been chosen for the election informing them that the course of instruction~~  
23 ~~will not be conducted for the election. In such case, for purposes of compensation~~  
24 ~~and replacement, the commissioners from that parish shall be treated as though they~~  
25 ~~had attended the pre-election course of instruction~~ **annually.**

26 (b) ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the~~  
27 **The** clerk of court shall conduct at least one pre-election course of instruction  
28 provided for in this Subsection prior to a presidential or congressional general  
29 election.

