

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 164

BY SENATOR PETERSON

VOTERS/VOTING. Allows any person who is registered to vote to vote absentee by mail without rendering a reason for requesting an absentee ballot. (8/1/16)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1303(B), relative to voting; to provide that any qualified voter
3 may vote absentee; to remove other requirements for voting absentee; to provide for
4 the distribution of absentee ballots to accommodate the absentee voting period; to
5 remove special provisions for absentee voting; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:1303(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1303. Persons entitled to vote in compliance with this Chapter

9 * * *

10 B. By mail. ~~The following persons, otherwise~~ **Any person** qualified to vote,
11 who expects to be out of the parish on election day, may vote absentee by mail, ~~upon~~
12 ~~meeting the requirements of this Chapter:~~

13 ~~(1) A member of the United States Service, as defined in R.S. 18:1302, and~~
14 ~~his spouse and dependents.~~

15 ~~(2) A student, instructor, or professor in an institution of higher learning~~
16 ~~located outside the parish in which he is qualified to vote and who lives outside of~~
17 ~~said parish by reason thereof, and his spouse and any dependent accompanying and~~

period and on election day.

- (5) A person who, after the registration books have closed as required by present law, has moved his residence to another parish and the new residence is more than 100 miles from the parish seat of the parish of his former residence, in which case he may vote absentee by mail in the parish of his former residence.
- (6) A person involuntarily confined in an institution for mental treatment outside the parish in which he is qualified to vote, who is not interdicted and not judicially declared incompetent.
- (7) A person residing outside the United States.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that any person who is registered to vote and expects to be outside of the parish on election day can vote absentee by mail ballot without having to meet one of the previous requirements.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 18:1303(B))