

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 230

BY REPRESENTATIVES SMITH AND HUNTER

VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to early voting days interrupted by a holiday

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1302(4) and 1309(A)(1), relative to early voting; to provide
3 for the period for conducting early voting; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S. 18:1302(4) and 1309(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to
6 read as follows:

7 §1302. Definitions

8 As used in this Chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the
9 following terms shall have the meanings hereafter ascribed to each:

10 * * *

11 (4) "Early voting" means the period of time ~~from fourteen days to seven days~~
12 prior to any scheduled election when any person who is qualified to vote may vote
13 in person at a place designated by the registrar as provided in R.S. 18:1309.

14 * * *

15 §1309. Early voting; verification

16 A.(1)(a)(i) The period for conducting early voting shall be from fourteen
17 days to seven days prior to any scheduled election.

18 (ii) The period for conducting early voting shall also include the day added
19 pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, if applicable.

1 (b)(i) One day of early voting shall be added to the period specified in Item
2 (a)(i) of this Paragraph if one or more holidays is required to be observed on a
3 weekday during that period pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

4 (ii) The additional day shall be the first day preceding the period described
5 in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph that is not a Sunday or a holiday required to be
6 observed pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

7 * * *

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)]

HB 230 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Smith

Abstract: Adds an additional day of early voting prior to the ordinary early voting period if one or more holidays occurs during the ordinary period.

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. 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.

Present law requires the registrar to observe the holidays which are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments during any period for conducting early voting.

Proposed law retains present law. Provides that one day of early voting is added to the period provided in present law if one or more holidays occurs on a weekday during that period. Provides that the additional day is the first day preceding the period described in present law that is not a Sunday or a holiday.

(Amends R.S. 18:1302(4) and 1309(A)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Specify that the holiday must be observed on a weekday for proposed law to apply.