

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 160

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY MILLER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to voting by a person who has a disability

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:564(D)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) and (2)(b) and  
3 1309.3(D)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) and to enact R.S. 18:106(C)(2)(d),  
4 564(D)(1)(a)(iv) and (2)(a)(iv), and 1309.3(D)(1)(a)(iv) and (v), relative to voting;  
5 to provide relative to eligibility for certain persons to receive assistance in voting on  
6 election day and during early voting; to provide procedures and requirements for  
7 receiving assistance in voting; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:564(D)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) and (2)(b) and  
10 1309.3(D)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
11 18:106(C)(2)(d), 564(D)(1)(a)(iv) and (2)(a)(iv), and 1309.3(D)(1)(a)(iv) and (v) are enacted  
12 to read as follows:

13 §106. Physical disability; inability to write English; language minority groups;  
14 execution of documents; assistance

15 \* \* \*

16 C.

17 \* \* \*

18 (2) For purposes of this Subsection proof of disability means one of the  
19 following:

20 \* \* \*

1                   (d) A completed and signed voter registration application attesting that the  
2                   voter has a physical disability and requires assistance in voting.

3   \*       \*       \*

4                   §564. Assistance in voting on election day

5   \*       \*       \*

6                   D.(1)(a) Prior to receiving assistance ~~under~~ pursuant to this Section due to  
7 a disability, including visual impairment, the voter shall file with the registrar in  
8 person or by mail a statement setting forth the necessity and reasons for this  
9 assistance and shall furnish the registrar one of the following:

10    \*       \*       \*

11                   (iv) A completed and signed voter registration application attesting that the  
12                   voter has a physical disability and requires assistance in voting.

13    \*       \*       \*

14                   (2)(a) A voter shall also be entitled to assistance without having filed with  
15 the registrar a statement setting forth the necessity and reasons for this assistance if,  
16 on election day, the voter presents to the commissioner-in-charge one of the  
17 following as proof of disability:

18    \*       \*       \*

19                   (iv) A completed and signed voter assistance form provided by the secretary  
20                   of state wherein the voter attests that he has a physical disability and requires  
21                   assistance in voting.

22                   (b) The commissioner-in-charge shall place any physician's certificate,  
23 statement setting forth the necessity and reasons for assistance, ~~or~~ copy of proof of  
24 disability or completed and signed voter assistance form presented by a voter in the  
25 envelope marked "Registrar of Voters" and attach the envelope to the precinct  
26 register.

27    \*       \*       \*

28                   §1309.3. Assistance in voting during early voting

29    \*       \*       \*

1           D.(1)(a) Prior to receiving assistance ~~under~~ pursuant to this Section because  
2           of a disability, including visual impairment, the voter shall file with the registrar in  
3           person or by mail a statement setting forth the necessity and reasons for this  
4           assistance and shall furnish the registrar one of the following:

5   \*       \*       \*

6           (iv) A completed and signed voter registration application attesting that the  
7           voter has a physical disability and requires assistance in voting.

8           (v) A completed and signed voter assistance form provided by the secretary  
9           of state wherein the voter attests that he has a physical disability and requires  
10           assistance in voting.

11   \*       \*       \*

12           Section 2. This Act shall become effective January 1, 2018.

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 160 Engrossed   2017 Regular Session   Gregory Miller

**Abstract:** Allows a person to submit certain information to election officials in order to receive assistance in voting.

Present law (R.S. 18:564 and 1309.3) provides for assistance in voting on election day and during early voting. Requires a person who seeks assistance in voting to file certain required documentation with the registrar prior to voting or to present certain documentation to election officials at the polls.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that a person may submit a completed and signed voter registration application attesting that the voter has a physical disability and requires assistance in voting or a completed and signed voter assistance form provided by the secretary of state wherein the voter attests that he has a physical disability and requires assistance in voting.

Effective January 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 18:564(D)(1)(a)(intro. para.) and (2)(b) and 1309.3(D)(1)(a)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 18:106(C)(2)(d), 564(D)(1)(a)(iv) and (2)(a)(iv), and 1309.3(D)(1)(a)(iv) and (v))