VOTERS/VOTING: Provides with respect to maintaining voter registration lists

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:193(E) and (H) and 197, relative to cancellation of voter registrations; to provide for the period of time a voter must be maintained on the inactive list of voters; to provide for the time for cancelling registrations of voters on the inactive list of voters; to provide for the time for transfer to the inactive voter list; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:193(E) and (H) and 197 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§193. Challenge and cancellation of registration; notice; procedures

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E.(1) A voter on the inactive list of voters who fails to respond to the address confirmation card shall remain on the inactive list of voters until his address is confirmed in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.S. 18:196 or not later than no less than a period of two four regularly scheduled federal general elections, at which time the registrar shall may cancel the voter's registration.

(2) When a registrar cancels a voter's registration based on the voter's failure to confirm his address within the time described in this Subsection, the registrar shall notify the voter of such cancellation by notice sent by forwardable mail to the last address on file for the voter.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
H. (1) If the registrar determines that a voter's registration has been cancelled through error of the registrar, the registrar shall reinstate the voter's registration as though the cancellation had never occurred and shall notify the registrant of the reinstatement.

(2) At least once prior to every regularly scheduled federal primary election, the registrar shall conduct an audit of the inactive list of voters to ensure its accuracy and to ensure that no voter has been erroneously placed on the list.

§197. Registration; cancellation

A. No registrar of voters shall cancel the registration of any voter in his parish between any primary election and the subsequent general election occurring in that parish as a result of any of the processes authorized by this Part, except in the case of a person who has been fraudulently placed upon the registration records or in the case of a person whose registration is canceled pursuant to the annual canvass conducted by the registrar.

B. Notwithstanding Subsection A of this Section, the registration of any voter on the inactive list of voters may not be cancelled within one hundred twenty days prior to an election in the jurisdiction where the voter was last registered.

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 576 Original 2020 Regular Session Willard

Abstract: Provides for changes to when a voter's registration may be cancelled.

Present law provides that the registration of a voter, who is on the inactive list, may not be cancelled unless the voter has been on the inactive list for a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections.

Proposed law changes the period that a voter must be on the inactive list, prior to having his registration cancelled, from two regularly scheduled federal general elections to four regularly scheduled federal general elections.

Present law provides that a voter's registration shall not be cancelled between any primary election and the subsequent general election, except in the case of a fraud or in the case of

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a person whose registration is cancelled pursuant to the annual canvass conducted by the registrar.

Proposed law provides that notwithstanding present law, a voter on the inactive list may not have his registration cancelled within 120 days before an election in the jurisdiction where the voter was last registered.

(Amends R.S. 18:193(E) and (H) and 197)