

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 224

BY SENATOR CLOUD

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

VOTERS/VOTING. Prohibits the use of ballot drop boxes. (8/1/21)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1308(B) relative to absentee by mail and early voting ballots; to prohibit the use of drop boxes; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1308(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1308. Absentee voting by mail

\* \* \*

**B(1)** The ballot shall be marked as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and returned to the registrar by the United States Postal Service, a commercial courier, or hand delivery. If delivered by other than the voter, a commercial courier, or the United States Postal Service, the registrar shall require that the person making such delivery sign a statement, prepared by the secretary of state, certifying that he has the authorization and consent of the voter to hand deliver the marked ballot. For purposes of this Subsection, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 13:3204(D). No person except the immediate family of the voter, as defined in this Code, shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot to the

1 registrar. Upon its receipt, the registrar shall post the name and precinct of the voter  
2 as required by R.S. 18:1311.

3 **(2) The use of a drop box for the purpose of returning a ballot to the**  
4 **registrar is expressly prohibited. For purposes of this Paragraph "drop box"**  
5 **means a monitored or unmonitored receptacle designated for the purpose of**  
6 **returning an absentee by mail ballot.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

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SB 224 Original DIGEST 2021 Regular Session Cloud

Present law provides that an absentee by mail ballot must be returned to the registrar by the United States Postal Services, a commercial courier, or hand delivery.

Proposed law retains present law and prohibits the use of a drop box for the purpose of returning a ballot to the registrar.

Proposed law defines "drop box" to mean a monitored or unmonitored receptacle designated for the purpose of returning an absentee by mail ballot.

Effective August 1, 2021.

(Amends R.S. 18:1308(B))