

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 286

BY REPRESENTATIVE JONES

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

VOTERS/VOTING: Extends the period for early voting prior to election day in presidential elections

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(a)(i), relative to early voting; to provide for the  
3 period for the conduct of early voting in the presidential election; to provide for an  
4 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(a)(i) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
7 follows:

8 §1309. Early voting; verification

9 A.(1)(a)(i) The period for conducting early voting shall be from fourteen  
10 days to seven days prior to any scheduled election. However, for the presidential  
11 election, the period for conducting early voting shall be from eighteen days to seven  
12 days prior to the presidential election.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
15 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
16 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
17 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
18 effective on the day following such approval.

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**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)]

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HB 286 Engrossed

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Jones

**Abstract:** Adds language that provides that, for the presidential election, the period for conducting early voting shall be from 18 days to 7 days prior to the presidential election.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309) provides for early voting preceding election day. Provides that the early voting period for an election is the period from 14 days to seven days prior to the election. Generally provides that early voting is held at the registrar of voters' office and requires the office to be open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on each day, Monday through Saturday. Requires the registrar, during the early voting period, to maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Present law provides that a registrar shall observe the holidays which are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments during the early voting period. Present law provides that Sundays are legal holidays. Present law further provides that one day of early voting shall be added at the beginning of the period if one or more holidays is required to be observed on a weekday during the period. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that for the presidential election the period for conducting early voting shall be from 18 days to 7 days prior to the presidential election.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(a)(i))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Limit the proposed law extension of early voting to presidential elections.