VOTERS/VOTING. Provides relative to hand delivery of absentee by mail ballots. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1308(B), relative to elections; to provide for hand delivery of absentee by mail ballots; to provide for the manner, location, and time periods for receiving hand delivered ballots; 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 per election

Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in boldface type and underscored are additions.
to the registrar. Upon its receipt, the registrar shall post the name and precinct of the
voter as required by R.S. 18:1311.

(2) If the ballot is hand delivered, the voter or authorized immediate
family member of the voter shall deliver the absentee ballot to the registrar or
to an employee of the registrar at one of the following locations:

(a) The registrar’s principal office, so long as the absentee by mail ballot
is returned during the time period set forth in Subsection C of this Section.

(b) The registrar’s branch office, so long as the absentee by mail ballot
is returned during the time period set forth in Subsection C of this Section.

(c) An early voting location in the parish in which the voter is registered
to vote, so long as the ballot is returned during the applicable period of time set

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Carla S. Roberts.

DIGEST
SB 144 Original 2022 Regular Session Robert Mills

Present law provides that any voter may vote at an early voting site in a parish where the
voter is registered to vote.

Present law provides that, under certain circumstances, a voter may request an absentee by
mail ballot and vote prior to election day. Present law requires an absentee by mail ballot to
be marked as provided in present law and returned to the registrar by commercial courier,
by the United States Postal Service, or hand delivery.

Proposed law retains present law and requires a hand delivered absentee ballot to be returned
to the registrar or an employee of the registrar at one of the following locations:

(1) To the registrar’s principal office or branch office.

(2) To an early voting location during the time period set forth for early voting.
Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

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