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## DIGEST

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Cromer

HB No. 520

**Abstract:** Provides for electronic voter registration.

Present law (La. Election Code) provides for registration of voters. Provides for application for registration at the office of the registrar, through DPS&C, through a designated voter registration agency, or by mail. Provides for the form of an application for registration. Provides for the content of the form. If applying in person, requires the applicant to establish his identity, age, and residency. Provides procedures for verifying information submitted by an applicant in an application for registration by mail. Provides for mailing of a notification of missing information and for a notice of registration. Provides procedures for changes in registration. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that a person who has a valid La. driver's license or La. special identification card may apply to register to vote or make changes to his existing registration by completing and submitting an electronic voter registration application on the secretary of state's website. Requires the secretary of state to design and implement a system to allow for electronic voter registration as provided by proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the electronic voter registration application shall contain spaces for the information required pursuant to present law to be included on the form for applying for registration. Provides that the applicant shall attest that the facts given by him on the application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief and that such attestation shall take the place of the affidavit required pursuant to present law. Requires the applicant to assent to the use of his La. driver's license or La. special identification card signature for voter registration purposes.

Proposed law provides that the applicant shall not be allowed to submit the electronic voter registration application unless it is complete. Requires the information submitted by the applicant to be immediately checked to ensure that the La. driver's license number, and La. special identification card number submitted by the applicant match the information maintained by DPS&C.

Proposed law provides that if a match is made, the secretary of state shall electronically forward the information provided in the application, along with a digital copy of the applicant's signature obtained from DPS&C, to the appropriate registrar of voters to determine the eligibility of the applicant in accordance with present law. Requires that the applicant be immediately informed that his application has been electronically forwarded to the appropriate registrar, but that the applicant will not be officially registered to vote or that changes to his existing registration will

not be made until his application is received and approved by the registrar of voters.

Proposed law provides that if a match cannot be made, the secretary of state shall not electronically forward the application. Requires that the applicant be immediately informed that his application cannot be processed and be instructed to print his completed application and mail it to the registrar of voters for the parish in which the applicant resides.

Proposed law provides that the secretary of state may employ additional security measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of voter registration applications submitted electronically.

Proposed law provides that except as otherwise specifically provided, an electronic voter registration application accepted by the secretary of state shall be considered an application for registration by mail.

Proposed law requires each registrar of voters to maintain such statistical records on the number of applications to register to vote electronically as requested by the secretary of state.

Proposed law provides that an electronic voter registration application shall be deemed to have been made as of the date it is accepted by the secretary of state.

Effective April 1, 2010.

(Amends R.S. 18:103(A), 104(A)(15), and 105(A); Adds R.S. 18:115.1)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Adds references to specific present law provisions for Louisiana special identification cards.
2. Provides that a person may make changes to his existing registration by completing and submitting an electronic voter registration application.
3. Changes "verified" to "checked" in proposed law provisions concerning comparison of information submitted by the applicant with information maintained by DPS&C.
4. Removes proposed law authorization for the secretary of state to check the last four digits of the social security number submitted by the applicant with information maintained by the Social Security Administration as a way of checking the identity of the applicant.
5. Removes proposed law provisions requiring the secretary of state to "accept" an electronic voter registration application.

6. Instead of "transmitting" the electronic voter registration application to the appropriate registrar, provides that the secretary of state shall "electronically forward" such application.
7. Provides that an electronic voter registration application shall be deemed to have been made as of the date the applicant is informed by the secretary of state that his application has been electronically forwarded to the appropriate registrar, instead of being deemed to have been made as of the date the application was "accepted" by the secretary of state.
8. Changes the effective date of the Act from Jan. 1, 2010 to April 1, 2010.