HB 544 Engrossed   2017 Regular Session   Danahay

Abstract: Revises the system of laws comprising the La. Election Code.

Present law (R.S. 18:3) provides requirements for any petition submitted to a registrar of voters for certification. Provides that each such petition must include certain information, including a handwritten signature of the voter, the date the voter signed the petition, the signer's ward, precinct, and date of birth, the registration address of the signer, and certain information concerning the person who witnessed and obtained the signature.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires a petition to include the signer's district.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:18) provides for the powers and duties of the secretary of state. Requires the secretary of state to develop activities, events, informational posters and pamphlets, and public service announcements for the implementation of an annual voter registration week and generally be responsible for implementation of such week. Provides for an official state voter registration week.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that in odd-numbered years, the official state voter registration week is the last full week which occurs two weeks prior to the close of registration records for the regular fall primary election. Provides that in even-numbered years, the official state voter registration week shall be the second full week in May.

Proposed law provides instead that in years when the president of the United States proclaims a National Voter Registration Day, the official state voter registration week is the full week in which the National Voter Registration Day occurs. Provides that in years when the president does not proclaim a National Voter Registration Day, the official state voter registration week is two weeks prior to the close of registration records for the regular fall primary election.

Present law (R.S. 18:25) requires the State Board of Election Supervisors to regularly review all election laws and all procedures used in conducting elections. Requires the board to annually report to the House and Governmental Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate

and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Senate its findings, observations, and recommendations concerning all aspects of elections. Provides that the report shall include but shall not be limited to the following subjects: election laws in general, registration procedures, election procedures, election officials, voting machines, tabulation and transmission of election returns, procedures used for casting and counting absentee by mail and early voting ballots, and any other aspect of elections the board deems appropriate.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the annual report to be submitted no later than January 15th.

Proposed law changes the reporting deadline from January 15th to January 31st.

Present law (R.S. 18:59.4) establishes the La. Voter Registration Administrators' Certification program to formalize and recognize the professional standards of registrars of voters, chief deputy registrars, and confidential assistants to registrars of voters in the state. Provides for education and training through courses administered by Auburn University and the Election Center. Provides for course requirements, certification, and maintenance of certification. Provides for an increase in salary for certification and maintenance of certification. Provides that the salary increase for certification is lost if not renewed within a certain number of years.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the salary increase is lost if certification is not renewed within each five-year period.

Proposed law provides instead that the salary increase is lost if certification is not renewed within each three-year period.

Present law (R.S. 18:104) requires the secretary of state, subject to approval by the attorney general as to content, to prescribe the form that shall be used uniformly by each registrar in the state and any person authorized to accept voter registration applications in registering qualified citizens to vote. Specifies certain information that must be included on the form.

Proposed law retains present law. Specifies that certain information on the form will be used to assess eligibility and that the remaining information is to be used to identify the applicant at the polls. Adds the following information to the form: race (on a voluntary basis), electronic mail address, telephone number, and former registered name, if applicable. Requires the form to include the questions "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and "Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?" and the statement "If you checked 'no' in response to either of these questions, do not complete the form." Specifies that only a single party affiliation may be provided.

Present law requires the form to include space for changes of address within the parish, changes of name, changes of party affiliation, dates of any of these, and remarks. Provides that the form may include father's middle name, name of spouse, occupation, and employer as information to be used

for identification of the applicant at the polls.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:107) provides relative to political party affiliation. Provides procedures for designating political party affiliation or lack thereof during voter registration. Provides procedures for changing a registrant's declaration of political party affiliation.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that a registrant may not be designated as being affiliated with more than one party at the same time.

Present law (R.S. 18:114) requires voter registration services to be available at all driver's license facilities in the state. Provides generally that an application for a driver's license or identification card issued by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections also serves as an application for voter registration unless the applicant declines to register to vote through specific declination or by failing to sign the voter registration application. Requires employees at driver's license facilities to offer voter registration to each person making an application for a driver's license or identification card and, upon request, to provide assistance to a person who wants to register to vote.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally requires employees at driver's license facilities to obtain written and signed confirmation of any declination of the offer of voter registration.

Present law (R.S. 18:176(D)) requires the registrar to take action based on a report that is no longer required to be produced involving changes of name. Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:193) provides a challenge procedure to be used by the registrar of voters when he has reason to believe that a registrant no longer is qualified to be registered, or that a registrant has changed his residence. Requires the registrar to send the registrant an address confirmation card and to place the registrant on the inactive list of voters, unless there is address information available to the registrar from the U.S. Postal Service or its licensee which indicates the registrant has moved to another address within the parish. 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 present law (R.S. 18:196) or not later than a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections, at which time the registrar shall cancel the voter's registration.

Present law (R.S. 18:196) provides procedures for voting by a registrant who is on the inactive list of voters. Requires the registrant to affirm that he resides at the address on file, at a new address in the precinct or in the parish, or at a new address outside of the parish, in which case he will only be allowed to vote if he affirms that he moved within the last three months.

Present law provides that if a registrant whose name appears on the inactive list of voters has appeared at the polls and voted and affirmed that he resides at the address on file or at a new address in the precinct or in the parish, the registrar shall transfer the registrant's name to the official list of voters and make any necessary corrections in the registrant's registration records.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if the registrant appeared at the polls and confirmed that he has moved outside of the parish, the registrar shall cancel the registration of such registrant.

Proposed law provides instead that if the registrant appears and confirms that he has permanently moved to a different parish, the registrar shall transfer the registrant's registration to the registrar of the new parish of residence. Provides that if the registrant confirms that he has permanently moved outside the state, the registrar shall cancel the registrant's registration.

Present law provides that if a registrant whose name appears on the inactive list of voters has voted absentee by mail or during early voting, the registrar shall transfer the registrant's name to the official list of voters and make any necessary corrections in the registrant's registration records if the information on the address confirmation card, as required by present law (R.S. 18:1309), or the residence address provided in an application to vote by mail so indicates.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if the registrant has confirmed that he has moved outside of the parish, the registrar shall cancel the registration of such registrant.

Proposed law provides instead that if the registrant confirms that he has permanently moved to a different parish, the registrar shall transfer the registrant's registration to the registrar of the new parish of residence. Provides that if the registrant confirms that he has permanently moved outside the state, the registrar shall cancel the registrant's registration.

Present law (R.S. 18:200) provides an unused definition for Part V of Chapter 4 of Title 18. Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:402) provides dates for primary and general elections. Provides that no election shall be held on certain specified days. Provides that if the date of any election falls on any such specified day, the election shall be held on the same weekday of the preceding week. Provides that if the date for the general election is advanced in accordance with the provisions of present law, the primary election shall be advanced the same number of weeks as the general election.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that if the date for the primary election is advanced in accordance with the provisions of present law, the general election shall be advanced the same number of weeks as the primary election.

Present law (R.S. 18:424) provides the powers and duties for commissioners-in-charge. Provides that the commissioner-in-charge shall receive the sealed key envelope from the deputy parish custodian of voting machines at least 30 minutes before the polls open on election day. Provides that the commissioner-in-charge shall administer the oath to the commissioners and preside over the election. Requires the commissioner-in-charge to deliver the keys to the voting machines, if applicable, the original of the machine certificates, the original of the signed list of commissioners,

and one of the original tabulation blank and compiled statement forms to the clerk of court.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the commissioner-in-charge shall preside over the counting and tabulation of votes. Proposed law repeals present law. Additionally provides that the commissioner-in-charge shall preside over the printing of the results from the voting machines and the closing of the polling place.

Present law (R.S. 18:425) provides for the qualifications of commissioners, including being a qualified voter who is able to perform the essential duties of a commissioner, not being a candidate or the immediate family member of a candidate in the election, and subject to certain exceptions, having completed certain training.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that if a proposition or question is on the ballot in a precinct, no member of the governing authority that called the election on the proposition or question and no member of the governing authority of a political subdivision that will receive revenue from a tax or fee that is the subject of the proposition or question shall be selected as a commissioner in that precinct.

Present law provides the powers and duties of commissioners. Provides that commissioners shall conduct primary and general elections at each polling place, shall enforce the election laws, and shall maintain order at the polling place during the election.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law additionally provides that commissioners shall maintain order at the polling place during the counting and tabulation of votes. Proposed law repeals present law. Provides instead that the commissioners shall maintain order at the polling place during the printing of results from the voting machines.

Present law (R.S. 18:427 and 435) provides for poll watchers. Provides for qualifications, powers, duties, appointment, and commission of watchers. Provides that each candidate is entitled to have one watcher at every precinct where the office he seeks is voted on in a primary or general election. Provides that a watcher shall be admitted within all parts of the polling place during the election and the counting and tabulation of votes, and he shall call any infraction of the law to the attention of the commissioners.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that a watcher may not take part in the counting and tabulation of votes. Proposed law repeals present law. Provides instead that a watcher may not take part in the printing of results from the voting machines.

Present law (R.S. 18:431) requires the clerk of court at least annually to conduct a general course of

instruction for commissioners that is open to the public. Requires the clerk to furnish to the persons who attend the course of instruction a copy of the informational pamphlet provided by the secretary of state and instruct them in the use of voting machines and the duties of commissioners in conducting primary and general elections. Requires the clerk to issue a certificate to each person who attends the course of instruction and achieves a satisfactory score on the test issued by the secretary of state for that course.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the clerk of court to schedule a general course of instruction for commissioners on some date following the last date for qualifying for office, but at least five days prior to the date for selection of commissioners. Requires the parish board of election supervisors to furnish to each commissioner-in-charge a list of the names, addresses, and party affiliations of all persons registered to vote in the ward to whom certificates of instruction have been issued during the term of office of the clerk who issued the certificates of instruction, and who have not been selected as commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, or alternate commissioners for the election.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law requires the clerk of court to conduct a course of instruction for commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, and alternate commissioners who are selected to serve in each election. Provides that the course shall be held after the selection of these officials but not less than four days prior to each election and that the course shall primarily cover the procedures to be used in the election for which the officials were selected.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the clerk of court to issue a certificate of instruction to each person who attends and satisfactorily completes the course of instruction for commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, and alternate commissioners who are selected to serve in each election.

Proposed law provides that the clerk shall either issue a certificate of instruction to each person who attends and completes the course of instruction or keep a list of such persons in the state voter registration computer system. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:135) provides (subject to specific exceptions for online registration and certain emergencies) that registrars shall close the registration records 30 days prior to an election. Provides that if the deadline falls on a legal holiday, the registrars shall close the registration records on the first day after such holiday which is not a Sat., Sun., or other legal holiday. Present law (R.S. 18:434) provides for the time, place, and method for selecting commissioners and alternate commissioners. Requires the parish board of election supervisors to meet at 10:00 a.m. on the 29th day before a primary election to select the commissioners and alternate commissioners for each precinct.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that if the deadline for the close of the

registration records provided in present law is moved due to a legal holiday, the meeting to select commissioners and alternate commissioners for each precinct shall be moved to the day after the close of the registration records.

Present law (R.S. 18:469) provides that qualifying in a primary election is reopened when a person who qualified and had opposition dies after the close of qualifying and before the time for the closing of the polls on the day of the primary election. Provides that the name of the deceased candidate shall not be printed on the primary election ballot, but if the primary election ballot has already been printed with the deceased candidate's name on it, any votes received by the deceased candidate shall be void and shall not be counted for any purpose whatsoever.

Present law provides that if the qualifying period for candidates reopens within 30 days before a primary election, all the votes cast in the primary election for that public office are void, unless the qualifying period for the office reopened and closed without additional candidates qualifying for the office. Provides for notice to the electorate if the election is voided because of the qualification of additional candidates.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if all the votes cast in a primary election for a public office are void because of the death of a candidate, the primary election for the office shall be held on the date of the general election, and the general election for the office shall be held on the fourth Sat. after the primary election. Provides, however, if the primary election is held on the date scheduled for a congressional general election, the general election for the office shall be held on the 5th Sat. after the primary election.

Proposed law provides that the general election shall be held on the fifth Sat. after the primary election in all cases, not only when the primary is held on a congressional general election date. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:564) provides relative to assistance in voting. Requires a person who needs assistance in voting to provide to the registrar or to the commissioners on election day certain information as proof of disability. Specifies the types of information required. Restricts persons who can provide assistance to the voter at the polls on election day and during early voting. Requires the commissioners to write the voter's name in the precinct register and write the name of the person, including a commissioner, assisting the voter behind the tab for "Assistance to Voters". Requires the person, including a commissioner, assisting the voter to sign his name behind the tab for "Assistance to Voters".

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that if the voter is not marked for assistance in voting in the precinct register the voter or the person, including a commissioner, assisting the voter shall check the box behind the tab for Assistance to Voters indicating that the voter has a physical disability or is unable to read.

Present law (R.S. 18:566) provides that in an election for federal office, when an applicant's name

does not appear on the precinct register and the registrar of voters has not authorized the applicant to vote by affidavit, or the commissioners assert that the applicant is not eligible to vote, and the applicant declares himself to be a registered voter and eligible to vote in the election for federal office, the applicant may cast a provisional ballot for candidates for federal office. Present law (R.S. 18:566.2) provides that the parish board of election supervisors in each parish is responsible for the counting and tabulation of all provisional ballots for federal office. Provides that provisional ballots must be counted prior to the compilation of returns pursuant to present law (R.S. 18:574) at the office of the registrar of voters or at a public facility within the parish designated by the parish board of election supervisors.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that provisional ballots be counted on the third day following the election, except that for a presidential or regularly scheduled congressional general election, the provisional ballots may be counted on the third or fourth day, or both, following the election.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides procedures for counting provisional ballots. Requires the parish board of election supervisors to announce the name of each provisional voter and to compare the name on the ballot envelope to the names on the list of provisional voters. Provides for procedures if the board determines that a provisional ballot is to be counted and for procedures if the board determines that a provisional ballot will not be counted. Provides for the document retention.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally requires the board to confirm each of the following with the registrar:

(1)   The provisional voter is a registered voter in the parish.

(2)   The provisional voter voted on the federal office or offices for which the provisional voter was eligible to vote.

(3)   The provisional voter did not vote early, absentee by mail, or at his precinct on election day.

Present law (R.S. 18:571) provides procedures for commissioners after the termination of voting, including securing the voting machines, certifying the official election results reports, completing voting machine certificates, certifying the duplicate poll lists, completing an affidavit containing certain commissioner information, gathering voting documents, locking the voting machines, and securing the keys to the voting machines.

Proposed law retains present law and instead requires the commissioners to post the voting machine printouts at a conspicuous place at the polling place for public viewing.

Present law additionally requires the commissioners to announce the results of the election in the order the offices, candidates, and propositions are listed on the ballot, announce that the results of

the election will be posted at the polling place for public review, and post the results of the election at a conspicuous place at the polling place for public viewing.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:572) provides for transmission of election returns. Requires the commissioner-in-charge to send to the secretary of state one of the duplicate poll lists and one copy of the machine certificates. Requires the commissioner-in-charge to send to the clerk of court the keys to the voting machines, the original of the machine certificates, the original of the signed list of commissioners, one copy of the final result tally sheets, and all election result cartridges.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the commissioner-in-charge to send the required documents and other items to the secretary of state and clerk of court upon completion of the counting and tabulating of votes. Proposed law provides instead that the documents and other items are sent after the results are printed from the voting machines.

Present law requires the commissioner-in-charge to send the secretary of state a copy of the final result tally sheets. Proposed law provides instead that the commissioner-in-charge send to the secretary of state a copy of the printouts from the voting machines.

Present law (R.S. 18:574) provides for the compilation and promulgation of election returns. Provides that the parish board of election supervisors or its representatives shall meet at the time and place designated by the clerk of court for the voting machines to be opened and to observe the verification of the votes by the clerk of court. Following verification and counting of any provisional ballots, requires the board to publicly prepare two compiled statements of the election returns showing the votes for each candidate and for and against each proposition. Requires the compilation of returns to be completed and a copy filed with the clerk of court by 4 p.m. on the fourth day after the election. Requires the board to mail a copy of the compiled statement to the secretary of state and requires the election returns to be transmitted from the board to the secretary of state by noon on the fifth day after the election. Requires the secretary of state to compile the results of the election and announce the results no later Noon on the 6th day after the election.

Present law provides that the computation of all time intervals for deadlines includes Saturdays, Sundays, and other legal holidays. Provides, however, if the final day in a time interval falls on a Sat., Sun., or other legal holiday, then the next day which is not a Sat., Sun., or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the final day of the time interval. If one or more of the duties provided pursuant to present law are delayed because of a Sat., Sun., or other legal holiday, the duties which follow will be delayed a like amount of time.

Present law requires the secretary of state to promulgate the returns by publication in the official journal of the state on or before the 12th day after the election if no action has been timely filed contesting the election. Provides that if the 12th day after the election falls on a Sat., Sun., or other legal holiday, and the secretary of state does not promulgate the returns prior to the 12th day after

the primary or general election, he shall promulgate the returns on the next day which is not a Sat., Sun., or other legal holiday.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that if one or more of the duties provided pursuant to present law are delayed because of a Sat., Sun., or other legal holiday, the duty to promulgate the returns will be delayed a like amount of time.

Proposed law (R.S. 18:1300.1 et seq.) provides for recall elections. Provides that if a certain percentage of qualified electors in a voting area sign a petition directed to the governor within a certain amount of time, the governor must issue a proclamation ordering an election to be held for the purpose of voting on the question of the recall of the officer. Provides that the proclamation shall order the election to be held on the next available date specified in present law (R.S. 18:402(F)). Provides that if the election is to be held on a primary election date, the proclamation shall be issued on or before the last day for candidates to qualify in the election.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if the election is not to be held on a primary election date, then the governor's proclamation must be issued on or before the 46th day prior to the election. Proposed law provides that the proclamation must be issued on or before the 54th day prior to the election, instead of the 46th day, if the election is not held on a primary election date.

Present law (R.S. 18:1303) provides that certain specified persons may vote absentee by mail, including a member of the U.S. Service, a person residing outside of the U.S., certain voters with disabilities, and a person who is at least 65 years old. Present law (R.S. 18:1307) provides procedures and requirements. Requires a person to make application to the registrar by letter, over his signature or mark, setting forth certain required information.

Present law provides that if the applicant is a member of the U.S. Service or resides outside the U.S. an application made in a certain form shall remain valid for a certain period of time.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the period of time that the application shall remain valid extends from the date the application is received in the office of the registrar of voters through two subsequent regularly scheduled federal general elections.

Proposed law provides instead that the application shall remain valid for a period of at least one year from the date the application is received in the office of the registrar and shall include at least one regularly scheduled federal general election.

Present law provides that if the applicant to vote absentee by mail has a disability or is at least 65 years old the application, if it meets the requirements of present law, remains valid indefinitely unless an absentee by mail ballot that has been sent to the applicant is returned to the registrar as undeliverable.

Proposed law provides that the application remains valid indefinitely only upon request of the voter. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1310) provides procedures for casting a vote using an absentee by mail ballot. Provides procedures for using a replacement ballot to vote absentee by mail. Provides that if a voter determines that his ballot is spoiled because he wants to change or correct his vote on the ballot before it is cast and counted but is unable to do so, he may obtain a replacement ballot from the registrar of voters in his parish. Provides that upon receiving the replacement ballot, the voter shall mark the ballot and return it to the registrar as provided in existing law. Provides that the voter shall not return the spoiled ballot to the registrar, but shall destroy it.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that if the voter sends both the spoiled ballot and the replacement ballot to the registrar, each of such ballots shall be void.

Proposed law provides instead that if the voter sends both the spoiled ballot and the replacement ballot to the registrar and the board can determine which is the spoiled ballot and which is the replacement ballot, the board shall count the replacement ballot. Provides that if the board cannot determine which is the spoiled ballot and which is the replacement ballot, each of such ballots shall be void.

Present law (R.S. 18:1313) provides for the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots. Provides that the parish board of election supervisors is responsible for the counting and tabulation of all absentee by mail and early voting ballots in the parish and provides procedures therefor. Provides that if a ballot is physically damaged or cannot properly be counted by the counting equipment and the vote cast by the voter is clearly discernible from a physical inspection of the defective ballot, a true duplicate may be made of the defective ballot in the presence of witnesses and substituted for the ballot. Requires the duplicate ballot to be clearly labeled "duplicate", bear a ballot number which shall be recorded on the defective ballot, and be counted in lieu of the defective ballot.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that if a ballot is physically damaged or cannot properly be counted by the counting equipment and the vote cast by the voter is clearly discernible from a physical inspection of the defective ballot, the ballot may be counted by hand. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that if two or more ballots for the same election have been included in the same envelope, the board shall reject all such ballots.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law (R.S. 18:1354) provides that the clerk of court is ex officio parish custodian of voting machines in each parish. Provides for the duties of the parish custodian, including providing for the instruction of election commissioners and issuance of certificates of instruction, notifying the

candidates of the date and time when they may examine voting machines before the election and when the machines will be opened after the election, supervising and having custody of the voting machines, certifying that the counters on the machines are set to zero prior to the election, and receiving the precinct register and voter lists.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally requires the parish custodian to transmit the election results to the secretary of state in the manner directed by the secretary of state.

Present law (R.S. 18:1363) provides for the determination of the number of voting machines that must be allocated to each precinct for an election. Provides for a certain minimum number of voting machines based on the number of voters registered to vote at the precinct.

Present law authorizes the parish board of election supervisors to reduce the number of voting machines allocated to precincts in the parish in an election at which a proposition or question is to be presented to voters and in a presidential preference primary election. Requires the parish board to notify the parish custodian of voting machines and the secretary of state of the number of machines to be prepared and delivered.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the notifications to be made at least three weeks prior to an election at which a proposition or question is to be presented to voters. Proposed law provides that the notification must be made at least four weeks prior to the election instead of three weeks.

Present law requires the notifications to be made not less than 21 days prior to a presidential preference primary election. Proposed law provides that the notification must be made not less than 29 days prior to the election instead of 21 days.

Present law authorizes the parish board to submit a written request to the secretary of state to reduce the number of voting machines to be allocated and used in an election other than an election at which a proposition or question is to be presented to voters or a presidential preference primary election. Provides that the request must include certain information. Provides that if the secretary of state determines that the reduction in the number of voting machines is feasible, he may reduce the number of voting machines.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the written request to be submitted on or before the 23rd day prior to the election. Proposed law provides instead that the written request must be submitted on or before the 29th day prior to a primary election and at least four weeks prior to a general election.

Present law authorizes the parish board to submit a written request to the secretary of state for additional voting machines for overcrowded precincts. Provides that the request must include certain information. Provides that if the secretary of state determines that there is a need for additional voting machines and that the provision of additional voting machines is feasible, he may allocate

additional voting machines.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the written request to be submitted on or before the 23rd day prior to the election. Proposed law provides instead that the written request must be submitted on or before the 29th day prior to the election.

Present law (R.S. 18:425.1 and 1286.1) authorizes the parish board of election supervisors to consolidate polling places if more than one polling place is within the same location and to reduce the number of voting machines to be used at the consolidated polling place below the minimum number provided in present law (R.S. 18:1363). Requires the parish board to notify the parish custodian of voting machines and the secretary of state of the number of machines to be prepared and delivered for the consolidated polling place.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally requires the notifications to be made on or before the 29th day prior to a primary election or at least four weeks prior to a general election.

Present law (R.S. 18:1373) requires the parish custodian to mail a notice to each candidate in the election, stating the time and place at which the preparation and testing of the machines will be conducted, the time and place when the machines will be sealed, and stating that the candidate or his representative may be present to observe the preparation, testing, and sealing of the machines by the parish custodian.

Proposed law provides instead that the qualifying official shall at the time of qualifying provide each candidate with a chronological table of procedures for the election that instructs the candidate to contact the parish custodian for information relative to the preparation, testing, and sealing of the machines and states that the candidate or his representative may be present to observe the preparation, testing, and sealing of the machines by the parish custodian.

Present law (R.S. 18:1402) provides for the proper parties in an action objecting to candidacy or an action contesting an election. Provides that the secretary of state, in his official capacity, shall be made a party defendant to an action contesting an election for public office, contesting an election for the recall of a public officer, objecting to the calling of a special election, or contesting the certification of a recall petition.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally requires the secretary of state to be made a party to an action contesting an election submitting a proposition to the voters. Provides that the secretary of state shall have standing to intervene in an action objecting to candidacy in which the secretary of state was not the qualifying official.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action, except that provisions relative to voter registration at driver's license facilities and replacement ballots become effective August 1, 2017, and provisions relative to the voter registration application form become effective on January 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 18:3(A)(3), 18(A)(8)(b), 25(B), 59.4(E)(2)(c), 104, 107(B), 114(F)(2), 196(C)(1) and (2), 402(G)(2), 424(C)(1), 425(C)(1), 425.1(A), 427(B), 431(A)(4) and (B)(2), 434(A)(1), 469(D)(2), 564(B)(5)(b), 566.2(C) and (F)(3)–(9), 571(A)(5), 572(A)(1)(intro. para.) and (a)(i), 574(F), 1286.1(A), 1300.7(A), 1307(C) and (G), 1310(D)(2), 1313(F)(9) and (G)(11), 1363(B), (D), (G), and (H), 1373(A)(1), and 1402(C); Adds R.S. 18:107(F), 425(B)(3)(c), 566.2(F)(10), and 1354(B)(8); Repeals R.S. 18:176(D), 200, 431(A)(5), and 1313(F)(11))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add provisions providing deadlines for the parish board of election supervisors to notify the parish custodian of voting machines and secretary of state of a reduction in the number of voting machines to be used at a consolidated polling place or at an election at which a proposition or question is to be presented to voters and in a presidential preference primary election.

2. Add provisions providing deadlines for the parish board of election supervisors to submit a written request to the secretary of state to reduce the number of voting machines to be used in an election other than an election at which a proposition or question is to be presented to voters or a presidential preference primary election and to authorize additional voting machines for overcrowded precincts.

3. Relative to courses of instruction conducted by the clerk of court for commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, and alternate commissioners who are selected to serve in an election, require rather than authorize the clerk to either issue a certificate of instruction to each person who attends and satisfactorily completes the course of instruction or maintain a list of such persons in the state voter registration computer system.

4. Add provisions requiring the secretary of state to be made a party to an action contesting an election submitting a proposition to the voters.

5. Add provisions authorizing the secretary of state to intervene in an action objecting to candidacy in which the secretary of state was not the qualifying official.