

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 325

2019 Regular Session

Bishop

**ELECTION CODE: Prohibits the registrar of voters, clerk of court, and Dept. of State from disclosing specified computer system information.**

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DIGEST

Present law (R.S. 18:154) provides that the records of each registrar of voters are public records. Provides for exceptions. Present law (R.S. 18:154(G)) prohibits the registrar, clerk of court, and the Dept. of State from disclosing certain information, including the following:

- (1) Information of a type exempted from disclosure pursuant to present law received from another state pursuant to a cooperative agreement authorized by present law (R.S. 18:18(D)).
- (2) Geographical coding of addresses of registered voters.
- (3) An application to vote absentee by mail, or information contained therein, until the applicant has returned his voted ballot to the registrar.
- (4) Computer system or program information, including software, related menus, flow charts, network diagrams, passwords, source materials, prompts, dialogues, operating manuals, programming materials or instructions, and any other computer operating or support materials concerning the state voter registration computer system and election management system or voting equipment.
- (5) Information contained within the state voter registration computer system and election management system which if disclosed may impair the security of the statewide voter registration system and election management system or the integrity of the information maintained on the systems or voting equipment.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally prohibits the registrar, clerk of court, and the Dept. of State from disclosing user names, nonpublic uniform resource locators, database object names, computer names, device identifiers and serial numbers, screen printouts and captures, internet protocol address numbers, and instructional manuals.

Proposed law provides that the registrar of voters shall perform the duties set forth in present law.

Present law provides that any person whose signature appears on a local option petition and who alleges that such signature is not genuine is hereby authorized to execute and file with the registrar of voters, a sworn affidavit, attesting that the affiant did not sign the petition. The registrar of voters, when checking the signatures for genuineness, shall take the affidavit into consideration

Proposed law retains present law but makes changes relative to the procedures for verifying the genuineness of signatures.

Proposed law provide that any person whose signature appears on a petition but is not verified or included for the purposed of certifying the petition due to a defect or absence of one of the requirements listed in present law, or any other requirement for a petition contained in present law is authorized to file an affidavit with the registrar of voters, within 30 days after the filing of the verification by the registrar with the governing authority, attesting to the genuineness of the signature, curing the information that precluded inclusion, or providing the absent information. The registrar of voters shall verify and include the signature for the purpose of certifying the petition upon the filing of an affidavit authorized herein within the period allowed by law.

Proposed law provides that any witness whose name appears on a petition is hereby authorized to file an affidavit with the registrar of voters, within 30 days after the filing of the verification by the registrar with the governing authority, attesting to the genuineness of a voter's signature that the person witnessed or curing the information that precluded inclusion of the voter's signature that the person witnessed. The registrar of voters shall verify and include a voter's signature for the purpose of certifying a petition upon the filing of an affidavit authorized herein within the period allowed by law.

Proposed law provides that within 10 days after the period allowed for the filing of an affidavit, a registrar of voters shall file an amended verification with the governing authority verifying and adding any signature that is subject of an affidavit to the total number of genuine signatures of qualified electors for the purpose of certification.

Proposed law provides that any person whose signature appears on a local option petition filed after July 1, 2018 with the registrar of voters for a parish whose population exceeds eleven thousand persons but does not exceed fifty thousand persons based upon the latest federal decennial census shall be authorized to file an affidavit.

Proposed law provides that any witness whose name appears on a local option petition filed after July 1, 2018 with the registrar of voters for a parish that exceeds eleven thousand persons based upon the latest federal decennial census shall be authorized to file an affidavit.

Proposed law provides that within 10 days after the period allowed for the filing of an affidavit, the registrar of voters shall file an amended verification with the governing authority verifying and adding any signature that is subject of an affidavit to the total number of genuine signatures of qualified electors for the purpose of certification.

Proposed law provides that the governing authority with whom the true copy of the verification or amended verification is filed by the registrar of voters shall attach to it a sworn statement showing the date, month, and year the verification or amended verification was filed with the governing authority.

Proposed law provides that if the petition conforms to all the provisions of present law the governing authority shall order the election. The ordinance or resolution of the governing authority ordering the election shall be adopted at the next meeting held after the verification or amended verification was filed with the governing authority by the registrar of voters.

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

(Amends R.S. 18:154(G)(4), R.S. 26:586(C), and 587(A) and (B); adds R.S. 18:58(D) and 154(G)(6) and R.S. 26:586(D) and 586.1)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

##### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the reengrossed bill

1. Provides for the verification of signatures on a local option petition.
2. Provides for amended verifications.