
DIGEST

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HB 449 Original

2023 Regular Session

Willard

Abstract: Provides for an Americans with Disabilities Act officer appointed by the secretary of state, a Voting Accessibility Advisory Group within the Dept. of State, and the instruction and examination of elections commissioners relative to the rights of voters with disabilities.

Present law (R.S. 18:431) requires the clerk of court to conduct a general course of instruction for election commissioners. Further requires the clerk to provide specific instruction during the course pursuant to minimum standards issued by the secretary of state.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires the clerk to provide instruction on the duty to comply with provisions of law pertaining to the rights of voters with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Present law (R.S. 18:431.1) requires the secretary of state to prepare the examination to be used for the course of instruction for commissioners and commissioners-in-charge. Further requires that the examination include questions relating to certain matters.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires the secretary to include in the examination questions relating to procedures for assisting voters with disabilities and requirements to comply with provisions of law pertaining to the rights of voters with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Proposed law (R.S. 18:523) requires the secretary of state to appoint an American with Disabilities Act compliance officer to serve at the pleasure of the secretary. Provides that the secretary shall fix the salary of the compliance officer and assigns responsibilities and duties to the officer.

Proposed law (R.S. 18:532.1) creates the Voting Accessibility Advisory Group within the Dept. of State. Provides that the group shall be comprised of at least seven members, a majority of which shall be disabled and represent a diversity of accessibility needs. Further provides that the group shall consult on voting accessibility issues.

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

(Amends R.S. 18:431(A)(1)(b) and 431.1(C)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 18:431.1(C)(7), 523, and 523.1 and R.S. 36:744(C)(5))