

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

HB 206

2025 Regular Session

Melerine

Present constitution (Const. Art. XI, §1) provides that the legislature shall adopt an election code which shall provide for permanent registration of voters and for the conduct of all elections.

Proposed law would have provided that no state, parish, or local election official or elected official in the executive branch shall enter into any consent decree or settlement agreement regarding the alteration of any election procedure or policy without specific approval of the consent decree or settlement agreement by concurrent resolution adopted by the legislature, in addition to any other approval or authorization required by law.

Present constitution (Const. Art. III, §20) provides that only the legislature may suspend a law, and then only by the same vote and, except for gubernatorial veto and time limitations for introduction, according to the same procedures and formalities required for enactment of that law. Further provides that every resolution suspending a law shall fix the period of suspension, which shall not extend beyond the sixtieth day after final adjournment of the next regular session.

Proposed law would have provided that approval by the legislature of a consent decree or settlement agreement by concurrent resolution as required by proposed law would have been conducted in the same manner and by the same procedure established for a suspension of a law pursuant to present constitution (Const. Art. III, §20), except that the fixed period for suspension shall not apply.

Proposed law would have provided that no state, parish, or local election official or elected official in the executive branch shall enter into a consent decree or settlement agreement related to a redistricting or reapportionment map of the legislature or that modifies any other district map or boundary.

(Proposed to add R.S. 18:5)

VETO MESSAGE:

"Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 206 of the 2025 Regular Session.

House Bill 206 purports to prevent any state, parish, or local election official or elected official in the executive branch from entering into consent agreements or settlement agreements regarding election policies or procedures without concurrent resolution adopted by the legislature. This bill conflicts with Act No. 237 of the 2025 Regular Session, which I have signed into law. Act No. 237, originating as House Bill 64, provides that, "the attorney general preserve and defend the state's autonomy, independence, and sovereignty in all legal matters and disputes involving the federal government and preserve for the state any power not expressly delegated to the federal government." Furthermore, Act No. 237 requires approval of the Governor and Attorney General for the state or any department, agency, board, commission, institution, or local political subdivision to enter into a consent judgment in federal court in certain circumstances. Act No. 237 cannot be squared with House Bill 206.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 206 and return it to the House of Representatives."