

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 208 (HB 577)

2025 Regular Session

Deshotel

Existing law requires the secretary of state to examine voting systems or system components to determine compliance with the certification standards promulgated by rule upon the request of a representative of the maker or supplier of the voting systems or system components. Prior law required the examination to occur prior to the solicitation of bids. Existing law requires any voting system or system components to be certified by a laboratory accredited by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

New law requires the examination of voting systems or system components prior to the procurement and use of the voting system or system components. Requires testing of the voting system or system components by a laboratory accredited by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

Prior law provided for the procurement of voting systems or system components by use of a competitive request for proposal process or public bids. New law changes the allowable methods of procurement to competitive sealed proposals or the invitation to negotiate in accordance with existing law (La. Procurement Code, Title 39).

Existing law establishes the Voting System Commission to evaluate and recommend the type of voting system to be procured. Prior law required the commission to recommend the type of voting system to the secretary of state to submit for competitive solicitation in accordance with the La. Procurement Code. New law requires the commission to recommend the type of voting system to the secretary of state to submit for procurement in accordance with the La. Procurement Code.

Existing law requires the commission to submit a report of its findings to the governor and the legislature. Upon receipt of the report, prior law required the secretary of state and the office of state procurement to develop a request for proposals. New law requires the commission to recommend the type of voting system to the secretary of state to be acquired via procurement, rather than competitive solicitation. Upon receipt of the report from the commission, the secretary of state and the office of state procurement shall develop the best method of procurement based upon the recommendations.

Existing law establishes the Voting System Evaluation Committee in order to review any proposals received by the secretary of state. New law requires the committee to review any responses to an invitation to negotiate in addition to any proposals received.

Prior law required the committee to investigate and test the voting systems proposed by the respondents to the request for proposals. New law requires the same investigation and testing by the committee on proposals received by potential vendors.

Prior law required the committee to score each proposal and recommend the highest-scoring proposal to the secretary of state. New law requires the committee to evaluate each proposal or response to an invitation to negotiate according to the procurement criteria. The committee is required to make recommendation to the secretary of state based on the evaluation and notify the secretary of state.

Existing law (La. Procurement Code, Title 39) provides for legal and contractual remedies relative to the procurement of all property by the state.

New law provides for the legal and contractual remedies specifically for the procurement of voting systems or systems components in existing law (La. Election Code, Title 18). New law provides for shortening of delays for the appeal of and determinations on the appeal related to a protest, debarment, or contract controversy from 14 days for each action as provided in new law to seven days for each action.

New law provides for the judicial procedures relative to the procurement of voting systems. Provides that an action objecting to the solicitation or award of a contract shall be tried summarily to begin no later than 14 days after suit is filed and that the judge shall render

judgment within seven days after the case is submitted to him. Provides procedures and timelines for the appeal of the judgment and for the computation of time.

Terminates the provisions of new law related to the legal and contractual remedies for the procurement of voting systems beginning June 30, 2027.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 8, 2025).

(Amends R.S. 18:1361(A) and (B), 1362(A)(1), 1362.1(I)(1) and (K), and 1362.2(A) and (C); Adds R.S. 18:1367.1 through 1367.14)