

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 847

BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER

DISTRICTS/WATER CONSERVN: Provides for the election, duties, and requirements of district supervisors of the soil and water conservation commission

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G) and to enact R.S. 3:1206(C),
3 relative to the election of district supervisors for the soil and water conservation
4 commission; to establish the method and administration of elections; to provide for
5 supervisor terms, the filling of vacancies, and eligibility requirements for
6 reappointment or reelection; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 and R.S. 3:1206(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1206. Election of three supervisors for each district

11 A. Within thirty days after the date of issuance by the secretary of state of
12 a certificate of organization of a soil and water conservation district, nomination
13 petitions may be filed with the state soil and water conservation commission to
14 nominate candidates for supervisors of the district. The commission shall have
15 authority to extend the time within which nominating petitions may be filed. No
16 nominating petition shall be accepted by the board, unless it shall be subscribed by
17 twenty-five or more qualified voters within the district who are qualified to vote
18 under the constitution and law of this state. Qualified voters may sign more than one
19 such nominating petition to nominate more than one candidate for supervisor. ~~The~~
20 ~~commission shall give due notice of an election to be held for the election of three~~

1 ~~supervisors for the district.~~ The names of all nominees on behalf of whom
 2 nominating petitions have been filed within the time ~~herein~~ designated in this
 3 Subsection shall be printed, arranged in the alphabetical order of the surnames, upon
 4 ballots, with a square before each name and a direction to insert an X mark in the
 5 square before any three names to indicate the voter's preference. All qualified voters
 6 within the district who are qualified to vote under the constitution and laws of this
 7 state shall be eligible to vote in the election. Only qualified voters shall be eligible
 8 to vote. submitted to the secretary of state. The three candidates who shall receive
 9 the largest number, respectively, of the votes cast in ~~such~~ the election shall be the
 10 elected supervisors for ~~such~~ the district. ~~The state commission shall pay all the~~
 11 ~~expenses of such election, shall supervise the conduct thereof, shall prescribe~~
 12 ~~regulations governing the conduct of such election, and shall publish the results~~
 13 ~~thereof.~~

* * *

15 C. Elections held pursuant to this Section shall be conducted by the secretary
 16 of state. The secretary of state and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry are
 17 authorized to adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the intent
 18 and purposes of this Section.

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20 §1207. Appointment, qualifications, tenure of supervisors

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22 C. The three elected supervisors of the district shall be elected annually, one
 23 each year. These elections of supervisors shall be held throughout the state regularly
 24 on the second Saturday in June, each year, in accordance with the general procedure
 25 and in the manner prescribed in R.S. 3:1206. Terms of office of all supervisors so
 26 elected shall begin on July 1st, following the date of their election. ~~All supervisors~~
 27 ~~presently in office and serving on the governing body of a conservation district, shall~~
 28 ~~remain in office until their terms expire, but from and after August 1st, 1956, all~~
 29 ~~vacancies shall be filled in the manner above prescribed, and whenever the term of~~

Proposed law modifies present law by removing the requirement that current supervisors remain in office until their terms expire and that vacancies and expired terms be filled by elections held on the second Saturday in June.

Present law provides for the removal of a supervisor for neglect of duty or malfeasance. Prohibits reappointment or reelection of a supervisor unless they have attended at least two-thirds of scheduled district meetings. Authorizes the commission to waive this condition for good cause.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that the condition be met within a 12-month period.

(Amends R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G); Adds R.S. 3:1206(C))