
HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to Original House Bill No. 544 by Representative Owen

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 3, after "through" and before "relative to" delete "1300.47," and insert "1300.48,"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, at the beginning of line 13, insert "to provide for notice of a citizens advisory referendum election; to provide for expenses of a citizens advisory referendum election;"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 16, after "only;" and before "and to provide" insert "to provide for effectiveness;"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, line 19, after "through" and before "is hereby" delete "1300.47," and insert "1300.48,"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 2, line 3, after "authority" delete the remainder of the line and insert "shall hold a parish-wide referendum for"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 5, delete lines 11 and 12

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 7, between lines 11 and 12 insert the following:

"§1300.46. Notice of election; expenses

A. When a citizens advisory referendum election is called pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter, the governing authority shall give written notice of the election to the secretary of state, the commissioner of elections, and each clerk of court and registrar of voters in the area affected by the election. If the election is to be held on a primary election date, such notice shall be received by the secretary of state at least four weeks prior to the opening of the qualifying period for the primary election. If the election is not to be held on a primary election date, such notice shall be received by the secretary of state on or before the fifty-fourth day prior to the election. If the deadline for receipt by the secretary of state falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the deadline for receipt by the secretary of state.

B.(1) The state shall pay one-half of the cost of ballots and election materials used in a citizens advisory referendum election. The remaining one-half of the cost shall be prorated between the state and all parish governing authorities participating in the citizens advisory referendum election.

1 (2) To administratively facilitate the payment of costs as provided for in this
2 Subsection, the secretary of state may initially pay such costs; however, the
3 appropriate governing authority shall reimburse all such costs to the secretary of
4 state, and all monies so received by the secretary of state shall be remitted to the state
5 treasurer. If more than one governing authority is involved in a citizens advisory
6 referendum election, the secretary of state shall prorate the reimbursable costs among
7 the governing authorities as equitably as possible."

8 AMENDMENT NO. 8

9 On page 7, at the beginning of line 12, delete "§1300.46." and insert "§1300.47."

10 AMENDMENT NO. 9

11 On page 7, at the beginning of line 19, delete "§1300.47." and insert "§1300.48."

12 AMENDMENT NO. 10

13 On page 7, after line 23, insert the following:

14 "Section 2. This Act shall become effective on August 1, 2027."