

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1048

BY REPRESENTATIVE MURRAY

VOTERS/VOTING: Provides relative to the early voting period

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:401.1(C), 1309(A)(1)(a)(ii) and (b)(ii), (2), and (4), and
3 1400.8 and to enact R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(c), relative to early voting; to provide for
4 voting on Sundays during the early voting period; to provide for the expense of
5 conducting early voting on Sunday; to provide for the addition of early voting days
6 when the early voting period is suspended during a state of emergency; and to
7 provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 18:401.1(C), 1309(A)(1)(a)(ii) and (b)(ii), (2), and (4), and 1400.8
10 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(c) is hereby enacted to read as
11 follows:

12 §401.1. Election emergency; purpose; elections emergency contingency plan

13 * * *

14 C. If any delays or suspensions are authorized by the governor, the delayed
15 qualifying, early voting or election day voting shall resume or be rescheduled as soon
16 thereafter as is practicable. If the early voting period is suspended, one day of early
17 voting shall be added to the early voting period for each day of early voting that is
18 suspended as provided in R.S. 18:1309. ~~In the event~~ If the voting on election day is
19 delayed or suspended and early voting has been completed prior to the issuance of
20 the executive order delaying or suspending election day voting, early voting for the

1 rescheduled election day may be reopened upon authorization of the governor for a
2 reasonable time prior to the new election date. Notice of the delay or suspension and
3 rescheduling of the election day or early voting shall be published at least once in a
4 newspaper of general circulation in the affected area if time permits and, where
5 practicable, broadcast as a public service announcement on radio and television
6 stations, or by any other means of communication available at that time.

7 * * *

8 §1309. Early voting; verification

9 A.(1)(a)

10 * * *

11 (ii) The period for conducting early voting shall also include ~~the~~ any day
12 added pursuant to Subparagraph (b) or (c) of this Paragraph, if applicable.

13 (b)

14 * * *

15 (ii) The additional day shall be the first day preceding the period described
16 in Item (a)(i) of this Paragraph that is not ~~a Sunday or~~ a holiday required to be
17 observed pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection.

18 (c) One day of early voting shall be added to the period specified in Item
19 (a)(i) of this Paragraph for each day of early voting that is suspended due to a state
20 of emergency or impending emergency pursuant to R.S. 18:401.1.

21 (2)(a) During the early voting period, the registrar shall ~~maintain regular~~
22 ~~office hours, remaining~~ remain open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ~~Monday through~~
23 ~~Saturday~~ each day, including Saturday and Sunday. Early voting on each day of the
24 early voting period shall terminate when all persons who were in line to vote at the
25 close of the regular office hours of the registrar's office, as provided in this
26 Paragraph, have been allowed to vote.

27 (b) If the secretary of state determines that the office space of the registrar
28 is insufficient or inconvenient to accommodate early voting, the registrar may
29 provide for an alternate location to conduct early voting, which location shall be in

Present law provides that the registrar shall observe holidays which are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments during any period to conduct early voting.

Proposed law excepts Sundays and Saturdays from the legal holidays that the registrar is required to observe.

Present law (R.S. 18:1400.8) provides that election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters and his permanent employees to perform election duties and responsibilities associated with early voting on any day during the week between 4:30 p.m. and the time that early voting terminates that day and on any Saturday on which early voting is conducted shall be paid by the state from funds appropriated to the secretary of state for that purpose and shall be a reimbursable election expense.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides the same for any Sunday on which early voting is conducted.

Present law (R.S. 18:410.1) authorizes the governor, upon certification of the secretary of state that an emergency exists, to issue an executive order declaring a state of emergency or impending emergency and suspend or delay early voting.

Present law provides that if any delays or suspensions are authorized by the governor, the delayed early voting shall resume or be rescheduled as soon thereafter as is practicable.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that if the early voting period is suspended, one day of early voting shall be added to the early voting period for each day of early voting that is suspended.

Present law requires notice of the delay or suspension and rescheduling of early voting to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected area if time permits and, where practicable, broadcast as a public service announcement on radio and television stations, or by any other means of communication available at that time.

Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 18:401.1(C), 1309(A)(1)(a)(ii) and (b)(ii), (2), and (4), and 1400.8; Adds R.S. 18:1309(A)(1)(c))