
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 1048 Original

2026 Regular Session

Murray

Abstract: Requires the registrar of voters to remain open on Sundays during the early voting period and provides for the addition of early voting days when suspended pursuant to a gubernatorially declared emergency.

Present law (R.S. 18:1309) provides that the period for conducting early voting shall be from 14 days to seven days prior to any scheduled election. Further provides that for the presidential election, the period for conducting early voting shall be from 18 days to seven days prior to the presidential election. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that during the early voting period, the registrar of voters shall maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Proposed law instead requires the registrar of voters to remain open from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on each day, including Saturdays and Sundays, during the early voting period.

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))