

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 138

BY REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides for a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) and to enact R.S. 18:192.1, relative to the
3 annual canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide for a supplemental annual
4 canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide relative to an inactive list of voters;
5 to provide for updating voter registration information; to provide for an effective
6 date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
9 18:192.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §192.1. Supplemental annual canvass

11 A. Each year, once the registrars have sent address confirmation cards as set
12 forth in R.S. 18:192(A)(2), the Department of State shall conduct the supplemental
13 annual canvass set forth in this section.

14 B. The purpose of the supplemental annual canvass is to identify other voters
15 who have moved and need to have their voter registration applications reflect their
16 current addresses and who did not do so in the annual canvass.

17 C. The secretary of state shall identify, from information available in the
18 state voter registration computer system, the following voters:

1 (1) Voters whose addresses were not verified or corrected in the annual
2 canvass and who were not sent an address confirmation card pursuant to R.S.
3 18:192(A)(2).

4 (2) Voters who have not voted in an election in the past ten years.

5 (3) Voters who failed to engage in any of the following activities in the past
6 ten years: make an application for voter registration, to receive an absentee ballot,
7 to change a name, address, or party affiliation or nonaffiliation, or any other change
8 in registration, or to participate in the nursing home program.

9 D. The Department of State shall send to the voters so identified a
10 "supplemental address confirmation card" and place the voter on the inactive list of
11 voters.

12 E. For the purposes of this Section, "supplemental address confirmation
13 card" means a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card, sent by forwardable
14 mail. The Department of State is responsible for developing the supplemental
15 address confirmation card and shall submit it to the House Committee on House and
16 Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental
17 Affairs for review. The department is also responsible for informing the registrant
18 about his voting rights under the supplemental address confirmation process.

19 F. If the registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation card
20 and has not moved or has moved within the parish, the registrar shall remove the
21 person's name from the inactive list of voters if it is on the inactive list and correct
22 the voter's address if necessary.

23 G.(1) If the voter responds to the supplemental address confirmation card
24 and has permanently moved to a different parish, the registrar shall transfer the
25 voter's registration information to the parish of residence.

26 (2) If the voter responds to the supplemental address confirmation card and
27 has permanently moved outside the state, the registrar shall cancel the voter's
28 registration.

- 1 federal office held after such date, the registrar shall cancel the registration of the
2 registrant.
- 3 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on April 1, 2022.

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 138 Original

2021 Regular Session

Farnum

Abstract: Creates a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters

Present law (R.S. 18:192) requires each registrar of voters to annually canvass the names of persons registered to vote. Provides procedures for verifying the names and addresses of such registrants. Provides procedures and requirements for correction and cancellation of registrations in conjunction with the canvass. Provides that the registrar of voters shall annually canvass the names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish no later than June.

Proposed law retains present law and requires each registrar of voters to annually conduct a supplemental canvass to identify voters who have moved and need to update their voter registration applications to their current addresses and who did not do so in the annual canvass. Provides procedures for identifying such registrants, including mailing address confirmation cards. Further provides that such registrants shall be placed on the inactive list of voters until the registrant confirms that the address on the confirmation card is correct. Provides that the registrar shall transfer the voter's registration information to the parish of residence if the voter has permanently moved to a different parish. Provides that the registrar shall cancel the voter's registration if the voter has permanently moved to a different state.

Proposed law provides that a voter's registration shall be canceled after a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections if the voter fails to respond to the confirmation card. Further provides that a list of names and addresses to whom confirmation cards are sent and whether or not each person responded to the confirmation card shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection.

Proposed law requires biannual publication of the list of inactive voters in a newspaper.

Effective April 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D); Adds R.S. 18:192.1)