AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:423(J), 1313.1(A), (B), (C)(1), (E), and (G)(introductory paragraph), (6), and (7), and 1315(B) and to repeal R.S. 18:1313.2, relative to the preparation, verification, tabulation, and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots; to provide for the timing of such processes; to provide relative to elections impaired as the result of a declared disaster or emergency; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1.  R.S. 18:423(J), 1313.1(A), (B), (C)(1), (E), and (G)(introductory paragraph), (6), and (7), and 1315(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§423. Parish boards of election supervisors

* * *

J.(1) Notwithstanding Subsection E of this Section, in a parish where the parish board of election supervisors tabulates and counts absentee by mail and early voting ballots in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.1, a member of the board may be compensated not more than eight days for a presidential or regularly scheduled congressional general election or seven days for any other primary or general election.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, in a parish where the parish board of election supervisors tabulates and counts absentee by mail and early voting ballots in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.2, a member of the board...
may be compensated not more than eleven days for a presidential or regularly
scheduled congressional general election or ten days for any other primary or general
election if any such election is impaired as the result of a declared emergency or
disaster.

* * *

§1313.1. Preparation, verification, tabulation, and counting of absentee by mail and
early voting ballots; parishes with one thousand or more absentee by mail
ballots

A.(1)(a) Parishes with one thousand or more absentee by mail ballots
returned to the registrar of voters for a primary or general election may conduct the
preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee by
mail and early voting ballots for a primary or general election the day before the
election.

(b) However, with the written approval of the secretary of state, parishes
may conduct the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting
of absentee by mail and early voting ballot for a primary or general election
beginning three days before the election.

(2) and conduct the The tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and
early voting ballots shall be conducted on election day.

B. The parish board of election supervisors shall be responsible for the
preparation, verification, counting, and tabulation of all absentee by mail and early
voting ballots in the parish. The board may utilize parish board commissioners to
count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots in the parish. If the board
determines that parish board commissioners are necessary for the preparation and
verification process to count and tabulate the absentee by mail and early voting
ballots the day before the election and to count and tabulate the absentee by mail and
eyearly voting ballots on election day, it shall select parish board commissioners in
accordance with the provisions of R.S. 18:1314. If a majority of the members of the
to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots or to count the absentee by mail and early
to count the absentee by mail and early voting ballots and no parish board commissioners were previously selected, the
members present may select a sufficient number of parish board commissioners on
the day three days before the election or on election day, as applicable, to assist in
the preparation and verification process for the tabulation and counting of absentee
by mail and early voting ballots and the tabulation and counting of the ballots.

C.(1) The preparation and verification process for the counting of the
absentee by mail and early voting ballots may be conducted the day before the
election at a public facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at
a time fixed by the parish board of election supervisors.

*     *     *

E. Candidates, their representatives, and qualified electors may be present
during the preparation and verification process for the counting and tabulation of
absentee by mail and early voting ballots on the day before the election and the
counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day.
If the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and early voting ballots begins
prior to the closing of the polls on election day, the board shall give notice
reasonably calculated to inform any person who wants to be present during the
counting and tabulation that no person will be allowed to leave or to communicate
with any other person outside, until such time as the polls are closed, nor shall any
person who is present during the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail and
early voting ballots on election day possess a cellular telephone or electronic
communication device.

*     *     *

G. The procedure for the preparation and verification process for the
tabulation and counting of absentee by mail ballots and early voting paper ballots on
the day before the election shall be as follows:

*     *     *

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(6) A member of the board shall place the absentee by mail ballots and early
voting paper ballots that have been challenged and the ballots that have not been
challenged in the special absentee by mail envelope or container provided for that
purpose and seal the envelope or container. Two members of the board shall execute
the first certificate on the envelope or container and date the certificate the day with
the date on which it was executed before the election.

(7) The members of the board shall place the certificates of the absentee by
mail ballots and early voting paper ballots that have not been challenged and the
flaps removed from those ballots in the envelope or container provided for that
purpose and seal the envelope or container. Two of the members shall execute the
first certificate on the envelope and date the certificate the day with the date on
which it was executed before the election.

§1315. Challenge of absentee by mail or early voting ballot

B.(1) During the preparation and verification process for the counting of
absentee by mail and early voting ballots on the day before the election, as
applicable, or the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election
day, any candidate or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector
may challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, other than those

(2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, for elections impaired
as a result of a declared disaster or emergency, during the preparation and
verification process for the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots
before an election in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.2, or the counting of absentee by
mail and early voting ballots on election day in accordance with R.S. 18:1313.2, any
candidate or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector may
challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, other than those

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are additions.
Section 2. R.S. 18:1313.2 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: __________________________

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