HLS 25RS-915 ORIGINAL

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 332

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BY REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN

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

ELECTIONS: Provides relative to the size of the campaign-free zone radius at polling places

1 AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1462(A)(introductory paragraph) and (2), relative to elections; to provide for the reduction of the size of the campaign-free zone radius around polling places; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1462(A)(introductory paragraph) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1462. Acts prohibited during early voting or on election day; electioneering; intimidation; exceptions; enforcement; penalties

A. The Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that the right to vote is a right that is essential to the effective operation of a democratic government. In order to preserve the integrity of its election process, and to protect the right of citizens to vote freely for the candidates of their choice, the state has a compelling interest in establishing a zone securing polling locations against certain conduct and activities, including voter intimidation, election fraud, confusion, and general disorder, that would interfere with the exercise of the right to vote. The legislature, therefore, enacts this Subsection to provide for a six one hundred foot campaign-free zone around polling places to provide to each voter such an environment in which to exercise his right to vote. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, it shall

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

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be unlawful for any person, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., to perform or cause to be performed any of the following acts within any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting, or within a radius of six one hundred feet of the entrance to any polling place being used in an election on election day or during early voting:

* * * *

(2) To remain within any such polling place or within a radius of six one hundred feet of the entrance of any such polling place, except when exercising the right to vote, after having been directed by an election commissioner, law enforcement officer, registrar, or deputy registrar to leave the premises or area of a polling place.

* * *

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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 332 Original

2025 Regular Session

Larvadain

Abstract: Provides relative to size of the radius of the campaign-free zone around polling places.

<u>Present law</u> establishes a campaign-free zone around polling locations to prevent certain activities such as voter intimidation, election fraud, confusion, and general disorder. Provides for penalties for violating <u>present law</u>.

<u>Present law</u> requires the radius of the campaign-free zone be 600 feet around the polling location.

<u>Proposed law</u> reduces the radius of the campaign-free zone <u>from</u> 600 feet <u>to</u> 100 feet around polling locations.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 18:1462(A)(intro. para.) and (2))