

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 180 (HB 847)

2026 Regular Session

Butler

Prior law authorized the filing of nomination petitions within 30 days of forming a soil and water conservation district to elect three supervisors. Required that petitions be subscribed by 25 or more qualified voters. Authorized the commission to extend the filing period, provide notice of an election, supervise and fund the election, and publish the results. Required that ballots listed nominees alphabetically with a square to mark up to three candidates. Further provided that only qualified voters in the district were allowed to vote and the three candidates who received the highest number of votes were elected as district supervisors.

New law prohibits any nominating petition from being accepted by the board unless the registrar of voters in the parish where the signers reside has certified that the petition has been subscribed by 25 or more qualified voters. Further changes the method of listing nominees from being printed on ballots for voter selection to being submitted to the secretary of state, and removing provisions governing ballot format and voter eligibility for the election. Requires that names of nominees be submitted to the secretary of state as candidates in an election to be held by the secretary of state as a private election. Removes provisions requiring the state commission to fund and supervise the election, prescribe election regulations, and publish the election results and the requirement that the commission provide notice of the election.

New law authorizes the secretary of state and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry to adopt rules and regulations to implement new law.

Prior law required that the district supervisors be elected each year on the second Saturday in June, with terms beginning July 1st following the election. Required vacancies and expiring terms be filled by elections held on the second Saturday in June after the term expired, and the current supervisors were to remain in office until their terms expired. Further required that all vacancies and expired terms be filled by an election held on the second Saturday in June after the term expired.

New law removes the requirement that the district supervisors be elected each year on the second Saturday in June. Further removes the requirement that current supervisors remain in office until their terms expire and that vacancies and expired terms be filled by elections held on the second Saturday in June.

Existing law provides for the removal of a supervisor for neglect of duty or malfeasance. Prohibits reappointment or reelection of a supervisor unless they have attended at least two-thirds of scheduled district meetings. Authorizes the commission to waive this condition for good cause.

New law requires that the condition be met within a 12-month period.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G); Adds R.S. 3:1206(C))