ENROLLED

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 575

BY REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN

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

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:402(E)(introductory paragraph) and 601(A), relative to state legislative vacancies; to provide relative to elections to fill state legislative vacancies; to require such elections to be held on certain dates; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:402(E)(introductory paragraph) and 601(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§402. Dates of primary and general elections

* * *

E. Special elections to fill newly created office or vacancy in office. An election to fill a newly created office or vacancy in an existing office, except the office of ~~state legislator or~~ representative in congress, shall be held on the dates fixed by the appropriate authority in the proclamation ordering a special election as follows:

* * *

§601. Vacancy in <u>state legislative</u> office ~~of state legislators~~; legislative service

A.<u>(1)</u> If a vacancy in the office of a state legislator occurs and if six months or more of the term remains unexpired, then within ten days of the vacancy occurring, the presiding officer of the house in which the vacancy occurs shall ~~determine the dates of the primary and general elections and the dates of the qualifying period for the election and shall issue a proclamation advising of the vacancy and setting forth the election dates and dates of the qualifying period for candidates.~~ <u>issue a proclamation advising of the vacancy and ordering a special</u>

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election to fill the vacancy and shall specify in the proclamation, in accordance with R.S. 18:402, the dates on which the primary and general elections shall be held and, in accordance with R.S. 18:467, 467.1, and 468, the dates of the qualifying period for candidates in the special election. However, if the deadline for issuing the proclamation falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, then the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the final day for issuing such proclamation. The speaker of the House of Representatives or the president of the Senate shall immediately forward such information to the secretary of state, who shall within twenty-four hours after receipt of the information notify all election officials having any duty to perform in connection with a special election to fill such vacancy, including the parish boards of election supervisors for the parish or parishes in which the vacancy occurred. The secretary of state shall also publish the proclamation in the official journal of each parish in which the election is to be held.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection or R.S. 18:402, if a vacancy in the office of state legislator occurs and if six months or more of the term remains unexpired and in the discretion of the presiding officer of the house of the legislature in which the vacancy occurs a person may be elected and serve during a session of the legislature which occurs prior to the next regularly scheduled election dates provided in R.S. 18:402, then within ten days of the vacancy occurring, the presiding officer of the house in which the vacancy occurs shall determine the dates of the primary and general elections and the dates of the qualifying period for the election and shall issue a proclamation advising of the vacancy and setting forth the election dates and dates of the qualifying period for candidates. However, if the deadline for issuing the proclamation falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or other legal holiday, then the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday shall be deemed to be the final day for issuing such proclamation. The speaker of the House of Representatives or the president of the Senate shall immediately forward such information to the secretary of state, who shall within twenty-four hours after receipt of the information notify all election officials having

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any duty to perform in connection with a special election to fill such vacancy, including the parish boards of election supervisors for the parish or parishes in which the vacancy occurred. The secretary of state shall also publish the proclamation in the official journal of each parish in which the election is to be held.

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Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2012.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

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