
DIGEST

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Brossett

HB No. 917

Abstract: Provides relative to the return of voted absentee by mail ballots to the registrar.

Present law provides relative to absentee voting by mail. Specifies the persons who are entitled to vote absentee by mail. Provides procedures for making application to vote absentee by mail, for receiving absentee voting materials, and for marking the ballot and executing other required documents. Requires materials mailed to a voter to include ballot envelopes and return envelopes; requires the return envelopes to bear the official title and mailing address of the registrar. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law, requires the ballot to be returned in the appropriate envelopes to the registrar who, upon receiving it, is required to post the name and precinct of the voter as required by present law.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for the following means by which such ballot shall be returned to the registrar: the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), a commercial courier, or hand delivery. Provides that if a ballot is delivered by other than the voter, USPS, or a commercial courier, the registrar must require that the person making the delivery sign a statement, prepared by the secretary of state, certifying that he has the authorization and consent of the voter to hand deliver the marked ballot. Prohibits anyone but the immediate family of the voter to hand deliver more than one marked ballot to the registrar.

Proposed law defines "immediate family" as in present law: the individual's children, the spouses of his children, his brothers and their spouses, his sisters and their spouses, his parents, his spouse, and the parents of his spouse. Defines "commercial courier" as in present law: any foreign or domestic business entity having as its primary purpose the delivery of letters and parcels of any type, and which:

- (1) Acquires a signed receipt from the addressee, or the addressee's agent, of the letter or parcel upon completion of delivery.

- (2) Has no direct or indirect interest in the outcome of the matter to which the letter or parcel concerns.

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

(Amends R.S. 18:1308(B))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Specifies that a voter who delivers his own ballot is not required to execute a certification.
2. Replaces the term "commercial delivery service" with "commercial courier" and provides that "commercial courier" has the same meaning as provided in R.S. 13:3204(D).

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds provisions making proposed law effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.