

Existing 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.

Existing 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 existing law.

New law 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 shall 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.

New law defines "immediate family" as in existing 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 existing 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 (May 14, 2012).

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