## **DIGEST**

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Arnold HB No. 498

**Abstract:** Provides that absentee by mail and early voting ballots are counted at the office of the registrar of voters or at a public facility in the parish designated by the parish board of election supervisors and repeals provisions for certain procedures relative to tabulation and counting of such ballots.

<u>Present law</u> (R.S. 18:1313) provides that absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at a public facility within the parish designated by the registrar of voters at a time fixed by the parish board of election supervisors, which time shall be on election day no later than 8:00 p.m.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that absentee by mail and early voting ballots shall be counted at the office of the registrar of voters or at a public facility within the parish designated by the parish board of election supervisors. Otherwise retains present law.

<u>Present law</u> provides that prior to the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, any person authorized by the secretary of state may assist the registrar of voters in the challenge removal process on the early voting machines, in the reading of the early voting machine results cartridges on the secretary of state's equipment, and in producing the early voting machine results report. Provides that all early voting machine results reports shall be placed in the special absentee by mail and early voting envelope or container. <u>Proposed law</u> repeals <u>present law</u>.

(Amends R.S. 18:1313(B))