HLS 15RS-2595 ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 94

BY REPRESENTATIVE DANAHAY

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS: Provides relative to a study regarding registrars of voters

A RESOLUTION

2	To create and provide for a subcommittee of the House Committee on House and
3	Governmental Affairs to examine and study certain matters relative to registrars of
4	voters.
5	WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana requires the
6	governing authority of each parish to appoint a registrar of voters but prohibits removal of
7	the registrar by the appointing authority; and
8	WHEREAS, the law does not provide procedures or requirements for appointing the
9	registrar; and
10	WHEREAS, R.S. 18:53 provides for the removal of a registrar by the State Board
11	of Election Supervisors only for willful misconduct relating to his official duty, willful and
12	persistent failure to perform his duty, persistent public conduct prejudicial to the
13	administration of the laws relative to the registration of voters that brings the office into
14	disrepute, or conviction of a felony; and
15	WHEREAS, the law provides that the registrar, subject to the direction of the
16	secretary of state, is responsible for the registration of voters in the parish, the administration
17	and enforcement of the laws and rules and regulations of the secretary of state relating to
18	registration of voters, and conducting absentee by mail and early voting in the parish; and
19	WHEREAS, R.S. 18:55 sets out a pay schedule for registrars that is based on the
20	population of the parish, with 12 salary steps for each population range; and

1	WHEREAS, the law provides that each registrar shall automatically receive an
2	annual salary increase to the next step on July first until his annual salary equals the highest
3	step of the appropriate population range; and
4	WHEREAS, each registrar whose salary is at the level of step one or higher is
5	evaluated as to merit in January, and upon a finding of "excellent" on the merit evaluation,
6	the registrar receives an additional salary increase to the next step until the registrar's salary
7	is equal to the highest step of the appropriate population range; and
8	WHEREAS, the law provides that the criteria and procedure for the merit evaluation
9	shall be determined by the secretary of state in conjunction with the Registrar of Voters
10	Association; and
11	WHEREAS, the Election Code also provides for a seven percent raise in the
12	registrar's salary if the registrar satisfies the requirements for the voter registration
13	administrator's certification program; and
14	WHEREAS, in light of concerns expressed recently regarding a number of issues
15	involving registrars of voters and in light of the importance of the voter registration process,
16	it is desirable to examine the compensation, evaluation, appointment, and placement within
17	the structure of government of registrars of voters.
18	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
19	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a subcommittee of the House Committee on
20	House and Governmental Affairs to examine and study the compensation, evaluation,
21	appointment, and placement within the structure of government of registrars of voters and
22	any related issues that the subcommittee deems appropriate.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the House Committee on House
24	and Governmental Affairs shall appoint the members of the subcommittee and designate the
25	chairman and vice chairman of the subcommittee.
26	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall be responsible for
27	examining all matters relating to the compensation, evaluation, appointment, and placement
28	within the structure of government of registrars of voters and any related issues that the
29	subcommittee deems appropriate.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall make such studies as it 2 shall find necessary or appropriate to carry out its purposes; for the purposes of conducting 3 such studies, the subcommittee may call upon the staffs of any department, agency, or 4 official of the state for data and assistance; all such departments, agencies, and officials shall cooperate with the subcommittee; and the subcommittee may request and utilize the 5 6 assistance of any and all public and private sources. 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall solicit input, 8 recommendations, and advice from the following: 9 (1) The secretary of state. 10 (2) The commissioner of elections. 11 (3) The attorney general. 12 (4) The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association. (5) The Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association. 13 14 (6) The Police Jury Association of Louisiana. 15 (7) The Department of State Civil Service. 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall have the power and 17 authority of a standing committee to hold hearings, require the production of books and 18 records, and do all other things necessary to discharge its duties and responsibilities. 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall make a report of its 20 findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the House Committee on 21 House and Governmental Affairs no later than thirty days prior to the 2016 Regular Session. 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall be dissolved upon the 23 adjournment sine die of the 2016 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 94 Original

2015 Regular Session

Danahay

Creates and provides for a subcommittee of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to study certain matters relative to registrars of voters, including compensation, evaluation, appointment, and placement within the structure of government of registrars of voters.

HLS 15RS-2595 ORIGINAL HR NO. 94

Requires the special subcommittee to make a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the committee no later than 30 days prior to the  $2016\,R.S.$ 

Provides that the special subcommittee is dissolved upon the adjournment sine die of the 2016 R.S.