HLS 15RS-2595 ENGROSSED

2015 Regular Session

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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, R.S. 18:1400.8 provides that expenses incurred by a registrar of voters
15	and his permanent employees to perform election duties and responsibilities associated with
16	early voting on any day during the week between 4:30 p.m. and the time that early voting
17	terminates that day and on any Saturday on which early voting is conducted shall be paid by
18	the state from funds appropriated to the secretary of state for that purpose; and
19	WHEREAS, in light of concerns expressed recently regarding a number of issues
20	involving registrars of voters and in light of the importance of the voter registration process,
21	it is desirable to examine the compensation, evaluation, appointment, and placement within
22	the structure of government of registrars of voters and payment of expenses incurred by a
23	registrar of voters for early voting.
24	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
25	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a subcommittee of the House Committee on
26	House and Governmental Affairs to examine and study the compensation, evaluation,
27	appointment, and placement within the structure of government of registrars of voters;
28	payment of expenses incurred by a registrar of voters for early voting; and any related issues
29	that the subcommittee deems appropriate.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs shall appoint the members of the subcommittee and designate the 2 3 chairman and vice chairman of the subcommittee. 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall be responsible for 5 examining all matters relating to the compensation, evaluation, appointment, and placement 6 within the structure of government of registrars of voters; payment of expenses incurred by 7 a registrar of voters for early voting; and any related issues that the subcommittee deems 8 appropriate. 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall make such studies as it 10 shall find necessary or appropriate to carry out its purposes; for the purposes of conducting 11 such studies, the subcommittee may call upon the staffs of any department, agency, or 12 official of the state for data and assistance; all such departments, agencies, and officials shall 13 cooperate with the subcommittee; and the subcommittee may request and utilize the 14 assistance of any and all public and private sources. 15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall solicit input, 16 recommendations, and advice from the following: 17 (1) The secretary of state. 18 (2) The commissioner of elections. 19 (3) The attorney general. 20 (4) The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association. 21 (5) The Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association. 22 (6) The Police Jury Association of Louisiana. 23 (7) The Department of State Civil Service. 24 (8) The legislative auditor. 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall have the power and 26 authority of a standing committee to hold hearings, require the production of books and 27 records, and do all other things necessary to discharge its duties and responsibilities. 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall make a report of its 29 findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the House Committee on 30 House and Governmental Affairs no later than thirty days prior to the 2016 Regular Session. HLS 15RS-2595

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee shall be dissolved upon the

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 Engrossed

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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 and payment of expenses incurred by a registrar of voters for early voting.

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.

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs</u> to the <u>original</u> resolution:

- 1. Add to the list of issues to be studied by the subcommittee the payment of expenses incurred by a registrar of voters for early voting.
- 2. Add the legislative auditor to the list of officials and entities that the subcommittee must solicit input, recommendations, and advice from in conducting the study.