

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 603

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

VOTING/REGISTRATION: Provides that the registration records for a general election do not close for first-time registrants prior to two business days after the primary election

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:135(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:104(A)(7.1), relative to  
3 registration of voters; to provide relative to application for voter registration; to  
4 provide for the content of the application form; to provide for the close of  
5 registration records; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 18:135(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
8 18:104(A)(7.1) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §104. Application for registration; form

10 A. The secretary of state, subject to approval by the attorney general as to  
11 content, shall prescribe the form that shall be used uniformly by each registrar in the  
12 state and any person authorized to accept voter registration applications in registering  
13 qualified citizens to vote. The form shall contain spaces for at least the following  
14 information with respect to the applicant:

15 \* \* \*

16 (7.1) Whether the applicant has previously been registered to vote in  
17 Louisiana.

18 \* \* \*

1 §135. Close of registration

2 A.(1)(a) Registrars shall close the registration records thirty days prior to an  
3 election. However, if the deadline falls on a legal holiday, the registrars shall close  
4 the registration records on the first day after such holiday which is not a Saturday,  
5 Sunday, or other legal holiday.

6 (b)(i) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph,  
7 for a general election, registrars shall close the registration records as provided in  
8 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph or two business days after the primary election,  
9 whichever is later, for first-time registrants.

10 (ii) For purposes of this Subparagraph, "first-time registrant" means a person  
11 who seeks to register to vote and who has not previously been registered to vote in  
12 Louisiana.

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#### 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)]

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Dixon

HB No. 603

**Abstract:** Provides that for persons who have not been previously registered to vote in La., registration records do not close for a general election earlier than the second day after the primary election.

Present law provides procedures and requirements for registering to vote. Authorizes the secretary of state to prescribe a form to be used uniformly by each registrar in the state and any person authorized to accept voter registration applications in registering qualified citizens to vote. Requires certain information to be included on the form. Proposed law retains present law and adds to the information required to be included in the form whether the applicant has previously been registered to vote in La.

Present law provides relative to the close of registration records. Generally requires the registrar to close the registration records 30 days prior to an election, unless the deadline falls on a legal holiday, in which case the deadline is moved to the next day that is not a holiday. Provides that the registration records may be closed at a later time under certain circumstances involving emergencies. Proposed law retains present law but provides that for a general election, registrars shall close the registration records as provided in present law or two business days after the primary election, whichever is later, for first-time registrants. Defines "first-time registrant" as a person who seeks to register to vote and who has not previously been registered to vote in La.

(Amends R.S. 18:135(A)(1); Adds R.S. 18:104(A)(7.1))