

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 646 (Substitute for House Bill No. 159 by Representative Farnum)

BY REPRESENTATIVES FARNUM AND GAROFALO

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:192, 193(H), and 198(A), to enact R.S. 18:191.1, and to
3 repeal R.S. 18:193(B) and (I), relative to the annual canvass of persons registered to
4 vote; to provide for criteria for the annual canvass; to provide for the duties of the
5 Department of State; to provide relative to the address confirmation notice; to
6 provide relative to the inactive list of voters; to provide for updating voter
7 registration information; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 18:192, 193(H), and 198(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and
11 R.S. 18:191.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §191.1. Address confirmation notice

13 For the purposes of this Part, the Department of State shall develop an
14 address confirmation notice which shall include a postage prepaid and preaddressed
15 return notice sent by forwardable mail and shall inform the registrant about his
16 voting rights under the address confirmation process. The address confirmation
17 notice shall be submitted by the Department of State to the House Committee on
18 House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and
19 Governmental Affairs for review.

1 §192. Annual canvass; costs

2 A.(1)~~(a)~~ No later than June thirtieth ~~in each parish~~, the registrar of voters of
 3 each parish in conjunction with the Department of State shall annually canvass the
 4 names of the registrants in all precincts in the parish. Failure of the registrar to
 5 conduct an annual canvass as provided in this ~~Paragraph~~ Subsection shall constitute
 6 willful misconduct relating to his official duty for the purposes of R.S. 18:53. The
 7 Department of State shall use the United States Postal Service or its licensee to
 8 verify the names and addresses of the registrants in all precincts in the state. A
 9 verification by the United States Postal Service or its licensee shall constitute a valid
 10 canvass of the registered voter.

11 ~~(b)~~ (2) In conducting the verification, if the United States Postal Service or
 12 its licensee provides a corrected address, the Department of State shall furnish the
 13 corrected address to the appropriate registrar of voters. Upon receiving a corrected
 14 address inside the parish, either the Department of State ~~may make the change~~ or the
 15 registrar of voters shall update the voter's address on the statewide registration
 16 system and ~~the registrar of voters may make the change on his records~~. If a change
 17 ~~is made, the registrar shall~~ mail a new voter identification information card to the
 18 voter using the corrected address provided and an address confirmation ~~card~~ notice
 19 as provided in R.S. 18:193. ~~In the event~~ If the new voter identification information
 20 card using the corrected address is returned to the registrar and the voter has failed
 21 to return the address confirmation ~~card~~ notice, the registrar shall consider the address
 22 not corrected. His records should be changed to reflect the prior address on file for
 23 that voter. If the corrected address is outside the parish, the registrar of voters shall
 24 not make the change on his records and shall send an address confirmation notice
 25 ~~card~~ as provided in R.S. 18:193.

26 ~~(2)~~ ~~For a registrant whose address was not verified or whose corrected~~
 27 ~~address is outside the parish, the registrar shall send an address confirmation card as~~
 28 ~~set forth in R.S. 18:193.~~

1 ~~B.~~ (3) The parish governing authority shall provide to the registrar of voters
 2 the funding necessary for the mailing of new voter ~~identification~~ information cards
 3 in the conduct of the canvass.

4 B.(1) No later than June thirtieth, the Department of State shall conduct an
 5 annual canvass as provided in this Subsection. Using information available in the
 6 state voter registration computer system, the secretary of state shall identify
 7 registrants who meet all the following criteria:

8 (a) The registrant's name did not appear with a corrected address provided
 9 by the United States Postal Service or its licensee pursuant to Subsection A of this
 10 Section.

11 (b) The registrant failed to engage in any of the following activities: vote in
 12 an election; make an application for voter registration; request an absentee ballot;
 13 validly sign a petition submitted to the registrar of voters for certification pursuant
 14 to law; change a name, address, or party affiliation or nonaffiliation; make any other
 15 change in registration; or participate in the nursing home program.

16 (2)(a) The initial canvass conducted pursuant to the provisions of this
 17 Subsection shall apply to registrants who failed to engage in any of the activities
 18 enumerated in Subparagraph (B)(1)(b) for a period of thirty years or longer.

19 (b) The second canvass conducted pursuant to the provisions of this
 20 Subsection shall apply to registrants who failed to engage in any of the activities
 21 enumerated in Subparagraph (B)(1)(b) for a period of twenty years or longer.

22 (c) The third canvass and each canvass thereafter conducted pursuant to the
 23 provisions of this Subsection shall apply to registrants who failed to engage in any
 24 of the activities enumerated in Subparagraph (B)(1)(b) for a period of ten years or
 25 longer.

26 (3) The Department of State shall send an address confirmation notice to
 27 each identified registrant and transfer the registrant to the inactive list of voters.

28 ~~C. For the purposes of this Section, "residence address" shall mean the~~
 29 ~~registrant's place of residence except in the case of a registrant to whom the United~~

