2023 Regular Session

1

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

BY REPRESENTATIVES FARNUM AND GAROFALO

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 House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and 18 19 Governmental Affairs for review.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

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§192. Annual canvass; costs

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

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

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

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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

HB NO. 646 **ENROLLED** 1 States Postal Service will not deliver mail to his place of residence, it shall mean the 2 registrant's mailing address. 3 §193. Challenge and cancellation of registration; notice; procedures 4 5 H. If the registrar determines that a voter's registration has been cancelled 6 through error of the registrar or the Department of State, the registrar shall reinstate 7 the voter's registration as though the cancellation had never occurred and shall notify 8 the registrant of the reinstatement. 9 10 §198. Change of residence or change in address; inquiry by registrar; change of 11 records 12 A. Whenever a registrar has reason to believe that a registrant has changed 13 his residence within the parish or that a change has occurred in the registrant's 14 mailing address within the parish, the registrar shall mail the an address confirmation 15 eard notice to the registrant as provided in R.S. 18:193 as provided in R.S. 18:193(B) to the registrant, but shall not place the voter on the inactive list of voters. 16 17 18 Section 2. R.S. 18:193(B) and (I) are hereby repealed in their entirety. 19 Section 3. In the case of any conflict between the provisions of this Act and the 20 provisions of any other Act of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature, the provisions 21 of this Act shall supercede and control regardless of the order of passage. 22 Section 4. This Act shall become effective on March 31, 2024. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPROVED: ____

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA