

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to study the feasibility of implementing same-day voter registration in the state and to report its findings to the legislature by December 31, 2012.

WHEREAS, Louisiana law provides that, except in cases of emergency, voter registration records close thirty days prior to an election and that generally no entries or changes in the registration records are made thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the period of time immediately preceding an election is when many voters focus on candidates and campaign issues; and

WHEREAS, allowing a person to register and vote on the same day makes voting accessible and convenient and, therefore, increases participation in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, eight states, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, allow for same-day voter registration on election day, and two additional states, North Carolina and Ohio, allow for same-day registration during the early voting period; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana recently began allowing citizens with a valid Louisiana driver's license or special identification card to register electronically on the secretary of state's website; and

WHEREAS, technology is available, including the statewide voter registration database, that can be used to implement same-day voter registration in Louisiana and at the same time protect the integrity of the electoral process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to study the feasibility of implementing same-day voter registration in the state and report its findings to the legislature by December 31, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall specifically solicit input, recommendations, and advice from the secretary of state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of state.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES