

2016 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY REPRESENTATIVE JENKINS

ELECTIONS/ABSENTEE VOTE: Requests the secretary of state to study same-day voter registration for in-person early voting

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the secretary of state to examine the feasibility and advisability of
3 allowing a person who appears in person at the office of the registrar of voters during
4 the early voting period to register to vote and to vote on the same day and to include
5 his findings and recommendations in the report required to be filed prior to January
6 1, 2017, pursuant to R.S. 18:135.1.

7 WHEREAS, elections are a fundamental part of federal, state, and local government;
8 they allow citizens to exercise their right to vote and thereby to participate in the government
9 of their country, state, and community; and

10 WHEREAS, voting is therefore a civic duty of paramount importance; and

11 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana and the Louisiana Election Code require
12 a person to be registered to vote in order to participate in an election; and

13 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Election Code currently provides that voter registration
14 records close thirty days prior to an election; and

15 WHEREAS, this has been the case for the majority of the time that Louisiana has
16 provided for voter registration; and

17 WHEREAS, the legislature changed the timing of the close of voter registration
18 records in the 2016 Regular Session; and

19 WHEREAS, beginning February 1, 2017, voter registration records will close twenty
20 days prior to an election for those who register to vote online; and

1 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Election Code provides that any qualified voter may vote
2 in person during the early voting period; and

3 WHEREAS, early voting is conducted at the main offices of registrars of voters, at
4 branch offices of registrars, and at certain additional locations designated by the secretary
5 of state; and

6 WHEREAS, the early voting period is fourteen to seven days prior to the election;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the voter registration records, therefore, are closed prior to early voting;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, R.S. 18:135.1 requires the secretary of state to examine all of the issues
11 regarding shortening the time period between the close of voter registration and the election,
12 including the availability and use of new voting technology and equipment, any necessary
13 procedural changes relative to voter registration, the conduct of the election, and whether or
14 not it is feasible to shorten the period of time between the close of voter registration and the
15 election; and

16 WHEREAS, this provision of law also requires the secretary of state to submit a
17 report to the governmental affairs committees of the legislature at least every other year; the
18 initial report was due January 1, 2007; and

19 WHEREAS, allowing a person who appears at the office of the registrar of voters
20 during the early voting period to register to vote and to vote on the same day could increase
21 citizen participation in the electoral process and at the same time protect the integrity of the
22 electoral process.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of state to examine the
25 feasibility and advisability of allowing a person who appears in person at the office of the
26 registrar of voters during the early voting period to register to vote and to vote on the same
27 day and to include his findings and recommendations in the report required to be filed prior
28 to January 1, 2017, pursuant to R.S. 18:135.1.

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

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 8 Original

2016 Second Extraordinary Session

Jenkins

Requests the secretary of state to examine the feasibility and advisability of allowing a person who appears in person at the office of the registrar of voters during the early voting period to register to vote and to vote on the same day, and to include his findings and recommendations in the report required to be filed prior to Jan. 1, 2017, pursuant to present law (R.S. 18:135.1).