1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 18:532.1(C)(3)(a) and 532.1(D)(1), relative to the election code;

3   to allow certain parish governing authorities to merge certain precincts; to provide

4   for approval and review of certain precinct changes; and to provide for related

5   matters.

6   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7   Section 1. R.S. 18:532.1(C)(3)(a) and 532.1(D)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted

8   to read as follows:

9   §532.1. Changing boundaries

10   *   *   *

11   C.(1)   *   *   *

12   (3)(a) In addition to the requirements of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection,

13   when the proposed precinct change involves a merger authorized by Paragraph

14   (B)(2) **or Subparagraph (D)(1)(b)** of this Section, prior to adoption by ordinance,

15   the parish governing authority shall submit proposed changes of the merger to the

16   secretary of state. No change in a precinct merger may be made by the parish

17   governing authority without prior review and approval by the secretary of state,

18   except as provided in this Paragraph. Such review shall consist of a determination

19   whether the proposed merger of the precincts establishes a precinct or precincts

20   where all parts of each proposed new precinct are in the same state, local, and

21   municipal office voting district.

22   *   *   *

1   D.(1)**(a)** Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no election precinct

2   shall be created, divided, abolished, or merged, or the boundaries thereof otherwise

3   changed between January first of any year of which the last digit is nine and

4   December thirty-first of any year of which the last digit is three.

5   **(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this**

6   **Paragraph or R.S. 18:1903 to the contrary, if the legislature has completed the**

7   **reapportionment required by Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution of**

8   **Louisiana following the latest federal decennial census and has received**

9   **preclearance pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the parish governing**

10   **authority may merge precincts upon the parish governing authority's certifying**

11   **in writing to the office of the secretary of state that the parish governing**

12   **authority and all school boards within the parish have completed all**

13   **redistricting that is required following the latest federal decennial census and**

14   **have received preclearance pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.**

15   **(i) A certified copy of the ordinance describing such precinct mergers,**

16   **a written description of proposed new precinct boundaries, and a copy of a map**

17   **clearly detailing the precinct boundaries within the parish shall be sent to the**

18   **secretary of the Senate, and the clerk of the House of Representatives, the**

19   **secretary of state, the clerk of court, and the registrar of voters of the parish**

20   **within fifteen days after the adoption of the ordinance.**

21   **(ii) No precinct merger shall become effective without prior review and**

22   **approval by the secretary of state, the secretary of the Senate, and the clerk of**

23   **the House of Representatives, or their designees. The secretary of state, the**

24   **secretary of the Senate, and the clerk of the House of Representatives, or their**

25   **designees shall send a report of the findings of the review to the parish**

26   **governing authority within forty-five days after receipt of the proposed precinct**

27   **changes. If the secretary of state, the secretary of the Senate, or the clerk of the**

28   **House of Representatives, or their designees fail to respond within forty-five**

29   **days after receipt of the proposed precinct changes, the proposed precinct**

30   **changes shall be deemed to be approved by the official or designee who failed**

Coding: Words which are ~~struck through~~ are deletions from existing law;
words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

1   **to respond.**

2   *   *   *

_____

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

_____

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

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