

Regular Session, 2008  
HOUSE BILL NO. 960  
BY REPRESENTATIVE GALLOT

# ACT No. 135

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1309.2, relative to a program for early voting; to authorize  
3 the secretary of state to develop and implement a program for the conduct of early  
4 voting in additional locations; to require the secretary of state, clerks of court, and  
5 the registrars of voters to work together to develop and implement the program; to  
6 require the approval of the program by the House and Senate governmental affairs  
7 committees prior to implementation; to require the secretary of state to provide a  
8 report regarding the program to the House and Senate governmental affairs  
9 committees; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 18:1309.2 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §1309.2. ~~Pilot program~~ Program for the conduct of early voting at additional  
13 locations

14 A. ~~Due to advances in the technology available relative to voter registration~~  
15 ~~databases, ballots and election materials, and voting machines, the Legislature of~~  
16 ~~Louisiana recognizes that it may be possible to conduct elections in a manner that~~  
17 ~~is more convenient to voters and cost-effective to the state, while at the same time~~  
18 ~~maintaining the highest standards of integrity for the electoral process. Based on~~  
19 ~~recent examples from other states, it appears that providing citizens with a period of~~  
20 ~~time during which they may vote at centrally located, easily accessible locations such~~  
21 ~~as grocery stores and supermarkets, shopping malls, and libraries can have the effect~~  
22 ~~of increasing voter turnout. Because participation in the democratic process has~~  
23 ~~always been and continues to be a core value of the Louisiana Legislature, the~~  
24 ~~legislature enacts this Section.~~

1                   B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the secretary  
 2 of state may develop and implement a ~~pilot~~ program for the conduct of early voting  
 3 at additional locations within ~~certain parishes~~; any parish of the state.

4                   ~~(1) The pilot program shall be conducted in not more than four parishes~~  
 5 ~~throughout the state, selected by the secretary of state based on feasibility, location,~~  
 6 ~~and population.~~ B. The secretary of state shall select additional locations for the  
 7 program based on feasibility, accessibility, and the number of registered voters.

8                   ~~(2) C.~~ C. In developing the ~~pilot~~ program, the secretary of state shall  
 9 specifically solicit the input, recommendations, and advice of the registrars of voters  
 10 and clerks of court on issues such as: the procedures for the conduct of ~~such~~ early  
 11 voting; the tabulation of votes cast at the ~~pilot~~ program locations; the selection of the  
 12 additional locations and the requirements for such locations; ensuring the integrity  
 13 and security of the early voting process; and how to ensure that a voter does not vote  
 14 during early voting in an office of the registrar and at one of the ~~pilot~~ program  
 15 locations. The registrars of voters and clerks of court ~~of the selected parishes~~ in each  
 16 parish in which an additional location is selected for the program shall assist the  
 17 secretary of state, as necessary, to implement the ~~pilot~~ program in those parishes.

18                   ~~(3)(a)~~ D.(1) After the development of the ~~pilot~~ program and after any  
 19 change to the program, the secretary of state shall submit the details of the ~~pilot~~  
 20 program and any change to the program, including the locations selected for the  
 21 program, to the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the  
 22 Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs for review and approval at  
 23 a joint meeting called for such purpose. No action shall be taken by the joint  
 24 committee except by the favorable vote of a majority of the members thereof from  
 25 each house present and voting, each house voting separately.

26                   ~~(b)~~ (2) If approved by the House Committee on House and Governmental  
 27 Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, the ~~pilot~~  
 28 program and any change to the program shall be implemented ~~at not more than four~~  
 29 ~~elections in each of the selected parishes for any elections held during the period of~~  
 30 ~~time from September 1, 2006, and January 1, 2008.~~

1           ~~C. The provisions of Subsections A and B of this Section shall be effective~~  
2           ~~until January 1, 2008. After conducting the pilot program for early voting at~~  
3           ~~additional locations, but not later than March 1, 2008, the secretary of state:~~ E. Not  
4           later than March first of each year, the secretary of state shall provide a written  
5           report to the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and the Senate  
6           Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs. Such report shall provide a review  
7           of the program and shall include a description of the types of technology utilized, the  
8           costs involved, whether any problems arose, an examination of voter turnout during  
9           the ~~pilot~~ program, and any recommendations for legislation.

10           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
11           signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
12           by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
13           vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
14           effective on the day following such approval.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_