

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
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July 1, 2021

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Honorable Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 63 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 63 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill is intended to provide clarity on where an absentee ballot may be returned if hand delivered. However, as finally passed, it is now unclear as to whether hand delivery can only take place during the period for conducting early voting or whether hand delivery can take place at an early voting location if it is during the time period for conducting early voting. Access to voting is too important for this uncertainty and so I have vetoed this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

cc: Honorable Clay Schexnayder
Speaker of the House of Representatives

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 63

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.



ORIGINATED

IN THE

SENATE

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE	
JUN 11 2021	
TIME	2:55 pm
RECEIVED	<i>[Signature]</i>

[Handwritten Signature]
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 63

BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1308(B), relative to hand delivery of absentee ballots; to provide for receipt requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1308(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1308. Absentee voting by mail

* * *

B. The ballot shall be marked as provided in R.S. 18:1310 and returned to the registrar by the United States Postal Service, a commercial courier, or hand delivery. **If hand delivered, the ballot shall be delivered to the registrar or to an employee of the registrar at the registrar's principal office, branch office, or early voting location during the period for conducting early voting.** If delivered by other than the voter, a commercial courier, or the United States Postal Service, the registrar shall require that the person making such delivery sign a statement, prepared by the secretary of state, certifying that he has the authorization and consent of the voter to hand deliver the marked ballot. For purposes of this Subsection, "commercial courier" shall have the same meaning as provided in R.S. 13:3204(D). No person except the immediate family of the voter, as defined in this Code, shall hand deliver more than one marked ballot to the registrar. Upon its receipt, the registrar shall post the name and precinct of the voter as required by R.S. 18:1311.

* * *

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

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by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Patch Page Cortez

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Clayton Kopp

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

Voted
John S. Edwards
1 July 2021
nsj