

Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004  
(225) 342-7015  
GOV.LA.GOV

June 29, 2021

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder  
Speaker of the House  
Louisiana House of Representatives  
Post Office Box 94062  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062

RE: Veto of House Bill 138 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 138 of the 2021 Regular Session.

The registrar of voters in every parish is already required to do an annual canvas of all registered voters under current law. The "supplemental annual canvas" provided for in this bill is repetitive and unnecessary. It further provides for a significant unfunded mandate on the Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

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

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

cc: Honorable Patrick Page Cortez  
Louisiana Senate President

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 138

BY REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) and to enact R.S. 18:192.1, relative to the annual canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide for a supplemental annual canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide relative to an inactive list of voters; to provide for updating voter registration information; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

**ORIGINATED**

IN THE

House of Representatives

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
JUN -9 2021  
TIME 5:06 pm  
RECEIVED [Signature]

Michelle D. Leland  
Clerk of the House of Representatives

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 138

BY REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) and to enact R.S. 18:192.1, relative to the  
3 annual canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide for a supplemental annual  
4 canvass of persons registered to vote; to provide relative to an inactive list of voters;  
5 to provide for updating voter registration information; to provide for an effective  
6 date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 18:196(A)(1) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
9 18:192.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §192.1. Supplemental annual canvass

11 A. Each year, once the registrars have sent address confirmation cards as set  
12 forth in R.S. 18:192(A)(2), the Department of State shall conduct the supplemental  
13 annual canvass set forth in this Section.

14 B. The purpose of the supplemental annual canvass is to identify other  
15 registrants who have moved and need to update their voter registration records to  
16 reflect their current addresses.

17 C. The secretary of state shall identify, from information available in the  
18 state voter registration computer system, registrants to which all the following apply:

1           (1) Registrants whose names did not appear with corrected addresses  
2           provided by the United States Postal Service or its licensee under R.S.  
3           18:192(A)(1)(b).

4           (2) Registrants who have not voted in an election in the past ten years.

5           (3) Registrants who failed to engage in any of the following activities in the  
6           past ten years: make an application for voter registration; receive an absentee ballot;  
7           validly sign a petition submitted to the registrar of voters for certification pursuant  
8           to law; change a name, address, or party affiliation or nonaffiliation; make any other  
9           change in registration; or participate in the nursing home program.

10           D. The Department of State shall send to the registrants so identified a  
11           "supplemental address confirmation card" and place the registrant on the inactive list  
12           of voters.

13           E. For the purposes of this Section, "supplemental address confirmation  
14           card" means a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card, sent by forwardable  
15           mail. The Department of State is responsible for developing the supplemental  
16           address confirmation card and shall submit it to the House Committee on House and  
17           Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental  
18           Affairs for review. The department is also responsible for informing the registrant  
19           about his voting rights under the supplemental address confirmation process.

20           F. If the registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation card  
21           and has not moved or has moved within the parish, the registrar shall remove the  
22           registrant's name from the inactive list of voters if it is on the inactive list and correct  
23           the registrant's address if necessary.

24           G.(1) If the registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation  
25           card and has permanently moved to a different parish, the registrar shall transfer the  
26           registrant's registration information to the parish of residence.

27           (2) If the registrant responds to the supplemental address confirmation card  
28           and has permanently moved outside the state, the registrar shall cancel the  
29           registrant's registration.

1           H. A registrant on the inactive list of voters who fails to respond to the  
 2           supplemental address confirmation card shall remain on the inactive list of voters  
 3           until his address is confirmed in accordance with the procedures set forth in R.S.  
 4           18:196 or not later than a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections,  
 5           at which time the registrar shall cancel the registrant's registration.

6           I. A list of names and addresses to whom supplemental address confirmation  
 7           cards are sent and whether or not each registrant responded to the confirmation card  
 8           shall be maintained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection and  
 9           copying as provided in R.S. 18:154. Ninety days prior to a regularly scheduled  
 10          federal primary election, the names and addresses of those registrants on the inactive  
 11          list shall be published for one day in the official journal of the parish governing  
 12          authority or in a newspaper calculated to provide maximum notice in the parish.

\* \* \*

§196. Inactive list of voters; procedure for voting

15           A.(1) In addition to the official list of voters, there shall be an inactive list  
 16           of voters which shall consist of registrants who have been mailed an address  
 17           confirmation or a supplemental address confirmation card. The names of registrants  
 18           on the inactive list of voters shall not be counted in computing the number of ballots  
 19           required for an election, the number of voters required to divide or constitute a  
 20           precinct, the number of signatures required on any petition, the number of  
 21           commissioners at a precinct pursuant to R.S. 18:425, the number of voting machines  
 22           to be allocated and used in each voting precinct pursuant to R.S. 18:1363, or the  
 23           number of registered voters necessary to recognize or determine the organization of  
 24           a political party or committee.

\* \* \*

26           D. If a registrant who has failed to respond to an address confirmation card  
 27           or a supplemental address confirmation card and whose name appears on the inactive  
 28           list of voters does not vote in any election from the date he is placed on the inactive

1 list of voters until the day after the second regularly scheduled general election for  
 2 federal office held after such date, the registrar shall cancel the registration of the  
 3 registrant.

4 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on April 1, 2022.

  
 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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

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



WFB  
 29 June 2021