

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 27, 2022

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 359 of the 2022 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

Please be advised that I have vetoed House Bill 359 of the Regular Session of 2022.

This bill appears to be in response to the narrative advanced by some groups that the federal government is sending directives or guidance to local election officials to improperly expand voting or influence elections. House Bill 359 would require any election official to obtain the permission of the House and Senate Governmental Affairs Committees before implementing any "federal directive or guidance pertaining to elections without an explicit state or federal directive to do so." This would mean that a local election official would potentially be prohibited from implementing a best practice recommended by a federal agency unless approved by both legislative committees. This would directly inject a political influence into the manner in which voter registrations and elections are conducted. Further, given that elections are conducted by local officials and the executive branch, this law also violates Article 2, Section 2 of the Louisiana Constitution.

I am proud that Louisiana did not make efforts to restrict voting or otherwise limit participation in our democracy like many other states did after the 2020 election. The state and local officials should make every effort to encourage people to vote, make it easier for them to vote, and make sure every legal vote is counted. This bill does not further that goal, and it should not become law.

Sincerely,

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

John Bel Edwards
Governor

enclosure

cc: Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President