**State Board of Election Supervisors Meeting Minutes**

**January 13, 2015**

The January 13, 2015 meeting of the State Board of Election Supervisors was called to order at the State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana in House Committee Room 3 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman, Secretary Schedler, called the meeting to order, and Patricia Daigle was acting secretary.

The following members were present: Tom Schedler, Secretary of State; Angie Rogers, Commissioner of Elections; Jacques Berry, Lt. Governor’s Office; William “Bill” Bryan, Attorney General’s Office; Robert Poche’, Registrar of Voters Association; and Robin Hooter, Clerks of Court Association.

Also in attendance was Malise Prieto, Clerk of Court, St. Tammany Parish.

Chairman Schedler called for adoption of the minutes of the 2014 meeting. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion for approval of the minutes. Without objection, the minutes from the 2014 state board meeting were adopted.

Chairman Schedler presented the recommendations for the Omnibus bill.

Number 1: Provides that the early voting confirmation sheets of early voters are not public records that are open to inspection, as the challenge numbers of the early voters are listed on the early voting confirmation sheets. If the early voting confirmation sheets and the audit print-outs from the voting machines are produced, it can be determined how the voters voted based on the challenge numbers listed on the early voting confirmation sheets. This provision ensures the secrecy of the votes.

Ms. Rogers moved to approve Item Number 1 and Mr. Berry seconded the motion. Item Number 1 was approved.

Number 2: R.S. 18:502 and R.S. 18:1410 provide that if the ballot has been printed with a withdrawn or disqualified candidate’s name, any votes received by the withdrawn or disqualified candidate shall be void and shall not be counted for any purpose whatsoever. R.S. 18:1300.7 provides that if the ballot has been printed with the name of a public officer subject to a recall election who has submitted an irrevocable resignation, any votes cast in the recall election shall be null and void and shall not be counted for any purpose whatsoever. Prohibiting disclosure of the votes for a withdrawn or disqualified candidate or public officer subject to a recall election makes it consistent with present law that provides that the votes are null and void and not counted.

Ms. Rogers moved to approve Item Number 2 and Mr. Bryan seconded the motion. Item Number 2 was approved.

Number 3: Deletes the requirement for the Department of Health and Hospitals to send the registrar in each parish a report of each person who was sixteen years of age or older who died in the parish within the preceding calendar month and provides that the report shall be sent to the Department of State. This puts into law the procedure that is currently being followed, as the Department of Health and Hospitals only sends the report to the Department of State and the Department of State submits the information to each registrar through the state voter registration computer system.

Mr. Poche’ moved to approve Item Number 3 and Ms. Hooter seconded the motion. Item Number 3 was approved.

Number 4: Requires the parish clerks of court who send out jury duty questionnaires to notify the Department of State of the name of each person whose jury duty questionnaire indicates that the person is not a United States citizen. Also requires each federal district court to notify the Department of State at the expiration of each jury selection panel of any person who is not a United States citizen. The information provided to the Department of State is used for the maintenance of the state voter registration computer system as required by federal and state law.

Ms. Rogers moved to approve Item Number 4 and Mr. Poche’ seconded the motion. Item Number 4 was approved.

Number 5: Allows college students who are qualified voters in this state or registered voters in another state to serve as commissioners in any precinct in the parish where the college is located. This will increase the pool of available commissioners and encourage college students to participate in the elections process by serving as commissioners.

The board discussed disabled voters’ ability to act as commissioners on election day.

Ms. Rogers proposed that a stated purpose be added.

Malise Prieto, Clerk of Court, St. Tammany Parish testified that it is very important that commissioners are able to handle all aspects of the job, including the entire process with handling the machines.

Ms. Rogers made a motion to include a preamble with the state’s purpose as to why the state requires commissioners that work in the precincts to not be entitled to assistance in voting. Mr. Poche’ seconded the motion. The amendment to include a preamble was approved.

Mr. Poche’ moved to approve Item Number 5 as amended and Mr. Berry seconded the motion. Item Number 5 was approved as amended.

Number 6: Provides the acceptable delivery methods for filing a list of watchers with the clerk of court.

Ms. Hooter offered an amendment to have the list of watchers notarized. Mr. Bryan seconded the motion. Item Number 6 was approved as amended.

Number 7: Requires a candidate to notify the clerk of court in writing by 4:30 p.m. on the tenth day before the general election if the candidate wants to use the same watcher list that he used in the primary election. This allows the clerk of court to have sufficient time to prepare the commissions for the watchers prior to the general election. It also addresses the issue when candidates do not intend to use the same watchers for the general election and fail to notify the clerk of court who may prepare commissions for watchers that are not needed.

Ms. Hooter made a motion to add the requirement that the watcher’s registration number be included on the list and Mr. Poche’ seconded the motion. Item Number 7 was approved as amended.

Number 8: Allows the president of the parish governing authority to notify the secretary of state of an emergency polling place change and have the change implemented prior to the adoption of a resolution by the parish governing authority. This allows emergency polling place changes to be made on short notice when there is an emergency and the polling place is unavailable. Also requires the parish governing authority to adopt a resolution approving the change in the polling place if the change becomes permanent.

Mr. Bryan moved to approve Item Number 8 and Mr. Berry seconded the motion. Item Number 8 was approved as amended with the amendment to be provided after discussion at a later time.

Number 9: Deletes the requirement to have a space for the state and parish or county where the certificate on the absentee by mail ballot envelope is executed, if the certificate is executed outside the voter’s parish of registration. The information is not necessary and it will provide needed room on the certificate on the ballot envelope.

Ms. Rogers: We are working with the registrars to make some changes to the envelope flap to give enough room to pre-print labels from the ERIN system with the voter’s name, registration address with the town and city where they are registered and their ward and precinct. A lot of voters do not know their ward and precinct. I think it is not consistent around the state how parish boards of election supervisors treat that affidavit. If a ward and precinct isn’t filled out, some choose not to count it so this would provide that registration information on the label to attach to the envelope and then the voter is verifying that they are who they say they are.

Ms. Rogers: This provision that requires that they state where they actually are when they sign is old and outdated. I do not know of any purpose that a registrar needs to know that I was in Topeka, KS when I signed this affidavit.

Mr. Poche’ made a recommendation pertaining to the affidavit envelope. On the bottom of the envelope where it says signature of notary or registrar, it is unnecessary and causes confusion to the voter.

Ms. Norton: If it is not in the law, then we can just remove it from the envelope flap.

Ms. Rogers moved to approve Item Number 9 as amended and Mr. Berry seconded the motion. Item Number 9 was approved as amended. Chairman Schedler noted that the issue presented by Mr. Poche will be addressed as well.

Number 10: Provides that a voter who expects to be hospitalized on election day and who did not have the knowledge of his proposed hospitalization until after the time for early voting had expired may receive his ballot electronically or have his ballot picked up by an immediate family member from the registrar’s office. This will enable a voter who is hospitalized close to election day to receive his ballot on an expedited basis and meet the deadline to return his voted ballot to the registrar.

Ms. Rogers moved to approve Item Number 10 and Ms. Hooter seconded the motion. Item Number 10 was approved.

The board addressed a concern from Ms. Hooter regarding R.S. 18:536; the concern being that there is no current law prohibiting a convicted felon from being the person designated at a polling place in the event of a precinct change to direct voters on the change. Ms. Rogers suggested looking into possibly having the designated person’s qualifications the same as a deputy parish custodian.

Mr. Poche’ expressed concerns regarding 16 year olds registering to vote through the Department of Motor Vehicles, but not through the registrar’s office.

Mr. Berry moved for adjournment and Mr. Poche’ seconded the motion.

The meeting of the State Board of Election Supervisors adjourned at 11:14 a.m.