HLS 202ES-160 ENGROSSED

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

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ELECTIONS/COMMISSIONERS: Requests the clerks of court develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit commissioners for polling places

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the clerks of court to develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit

3	commissioners for polling places.
4	WHEREAS, poll commissioners conduct primary and general elections, enforce the
5	election laws, and maintain order at the polling place during the election and during the
6	printing of results from the voting machines; and
7	WHEREAS, Louisiana's elections cannot be conducted without poll commissioners
8	present to facilitate the voting process by checking identification, making sure those voting
9	have the proper credentials, and ensuring that voters are at the correct precinct; and
10	WHEREAS, on January 22, 2020, the secretary of state indicated that Louisiana is
11	currently facing a shortage of poll commissioners; and
12	WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, the secretary of state's office announced the
13	launch of a recruitment campaign for election workers to help set up the polling locations
14	and verify voter registrations; and
15	WHEREAS, the number of poll commissioners for each precinct in each election
16	changes based on the size of the election; and
17	WHEREAS, there are currently a large number of commissioner vacancies in the
18	most populated parishes of Louisiana: East Baton Rouge and Jefferson; and
19	WHEREAS, the emergency election plan proposed by the secretary of state and
20	adopted by the legislature authorized the use of certain military and law enforcement
21	personnel at the polls to address this shortage, despite certain prohibitions in law and

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- 1 concerns the proposal could have the effect of discouraging voters from entering polling
- 2 locations to vote, which illustrates the urgency and the need for encouraging other members
- 3 of the public to serve; and
- 4 WHEREAS, poll commissioners are essential to the success of any election, and
- 5 there are never enough capable, committed residents willing to participate in the election
- 6 process by working as poll commissioners on election day; it is vital that more citizens be
- 7 encouraged and recruited to participate in the electoral process at the precinct level.
- 8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
- 9 urge and request the clerks of court to develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit
- 10 commissioners for polling places.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Duplessis

Requests the clerks of court develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit commissioners for polling places.