

SENATE BILL NO. 207

BY SENATOR RISER

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. 18:1400.2(A), the introductory paragraph of (B)(1), and (C)(1) and 1400.8, relative to election costs; to provide for the payment of certain election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1400.2(A), the introductory paragraph of (B)(1), and (C)(1) and 1400.8 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1400.2. Election costs paid by secretary of state; governing authorities; reimbursement

A. The costs of publication of the location of polling places; of renting polling places; of drayage; of setting up voting machines; of compensating commissioners and deputy parish custodians; **of paying election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters and his permanent employees as provided by R.S. 18:1400.8;** and of transmitting election returns for gubernatorial and congressional elections, whether or not a gubernatorial or congressional candidate appears on the ballot, shall be paid by the state from funds appropriated to the secretary of state for that purpose, except that when a local or municipal candidate or a local bond, debt, tax, proposition, or question also appears on the ballot, the state shall be required to pay one-half of such costs. The remaining one-half shall be prorated between the state and all local or municipal entities participating in such election. In the case of the offices of justice of the peace and constable of a justice of the peace court, the costs shall be prorated to the parish governing authority. The pro rata share of a local or municipal entity shall be determined by dividing the number of that entity's offices, propositions, or questions on the ballot by the total number of all offices, propositions, or questions on the ballot within that local jurisdiction.

1 B.(1) The cost of publication of the location of polling places; of renting
 2 polling places; of drayage; of setting up voting machines; of compensating
 3 commissioners and deputy parish custodians; **of paying election expenses incurred**
 4 **by a registrar of voters and his permanent employees as provided by R.S.**
 5 **18:1400.8;** and of transmitting election returns for any special election when any of
 6 the following appear on the ballot shall be paid by the state from funds appropriated
 7 to the secretary of state for that purpose:

8 * * *

9 C.(1) The cost of publication of the location of polling places; of renting
 10 polling places; of drayage; of setting up voting machines, which cost shall be ten
 11 dollars per machine; of compensating commissioners and deputy parish custodians;
 12 **of paying election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters and his permanent**
 13 **employees as provided by R.S. 18:1400.8;** and of transmitting election returns for
 14 any election not provided for in Subsections A and B of this Section shall be paid by
 15 the appropriate governing authority that relates to the character of office or issue
 16 involved in such election. In the case of the offices of justice of the peace and
 17 constable of a justice of the peace court, the costs shall be prorated to the parish
 18 governing authority. Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, if more
 19 than one governing authority is involved in an election, a statement of such expenses
 20 shall be transmitted to each governing authority involved in the election and payment
 21 thereof shall be prorated among the governing authorities as equitably as possible.

22 * * *

23 §1400.8. Expenses incurred by registrars of voters conducting early voting; payment
 24 by secretary of state

25 Election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters and his permanent
 26 employees to perform election duties and responsibilities associated with early
 27 voting on any day during the week between 4:30 p.m. and the time that early voting
 28 terminates that day and on any Saturday on which early voting is conducted shall be
 29 paid by the state from funds appropriated to the secretary of state for that purpose
 30 **and shall be a reimbursable election expense as provided by R.S. 18:1400.2.**

1 Section 2. R.S. 18:1400.2(A), the introductory paragraph of (B)(1), and (C)(1) and
2 1400.8 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

3 §1400.2. Election costs paid by secretary of state; governing authorities;
4 reimbursement

5 A. The costs of publication of the location of polling places; of renting
6 polling places; of drayage; of setting up voting machines; of compensating
7 commissioners and deputy parish custodians; ~~of paying election expenses incurred~~
8 ~~by a registrar of voters and his permanent employees as provided by R.S. 18:1400.8;~~
9 and of transmitting election returns for gubernatorial and congressional elections,
10 whether or not a gubernatorial or congressional candidate appears on the ballot, shall
11 be paid by the state from funds appropriated to the secretary of state for that purpose,
12 except that when a local or municipal candidate or a local bond, debt, tax,
13 proposition, or question also appears on the ballot, the state shall be required to pay
14 one-half of such costs. The remaining one-half shall be prorated between the state
15 and all local or municipal entities participating in such election. In the case of the
16 offices of justice of the peace and constable of a justice of the peace court, the costs
17 shall be prorated to the parish governing authority. The pro rata share of a local or
18 municipal entity shall be determined by dividing the number of that entity's offices,
19 propositions, or questions on the ballot by the total number of all offices,
20 propositions, or questions on the ballot within that local jurisdiction.

21 B.(1) The cost of publication of the location of polling places; of renting
22 polling places; of drayage; of setting up voting machines; of compensating
23 commissioners and deputy parish custodians; ~~of paying election expenses incurred~~
24 ~~by a registrar of voters and his permanent employees as provided by R.S. 18:1400.8;~~
25 and of transmitting election returns for any special election when any of the
26 following appear on the ballot shall be paid by the state from funds appropriated to
27 the secretary of state for that purpose:

28 * * *

29 C.(1) The cost of publication of the location of polling places; of renting
30 polling places; of drayage; of setting up voting machines, which cost shall be ten

1 dollars per machine; of compensating commissioners and deputy parish custodians;
 2 ~~of paying election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters and his permanent~~
 3 ~~employees as provided by R.S. 18:1400.8;~~ and of transmitting election returns for
 4 any election not provided for in Subsections A and B of this Section shall be paid by
 5 the appropriate governing authority that relates to the character of office or issue
 6 involved in such election. In the case of the offices of justice of the peace and
 7 constable of a justice of the peace court, the costs shall be prorated to the parish
 8 governing authority. Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, if more
 9 than one governing authority is involved in an election, a statement of such expenses
 10 shall be transmitted to each governing authority involved in the election and payment
 11 thereof shall be prorated among the governing authorities as equitably as possible.

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13 §1400.8. Expenses incurred by registrars of voters conducting early voting;
 14 payment by secretary of state

15 Election expenses incurred by a registrar of voters and his permanent
 16 employees to perform election duties and responsibilities associated with early
 17 voting on any day during the week between 4:30 p.m. and the time that early voting
 18 terminates that day and on any Saturday on which early voting is conducted shall be
 19 paid by the state from funds appropriated to the secretary of state for that purpose
 20 ~~and shall be a reimbursable election expense as provided by R.S. 18:1400.2.~~

21 Section 3.(A) This Section and Section 1 of this Act shall become effective
 22 on January 1, 2016.

23 (B) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on December 31, 2017.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____