AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1315(B) and to enact R.S. 18:4 and 1461.7(A)(7), relative to witnessing election documents; to place age requirements on witnesses; to require witnesses to provide certain information; to provide for the grounds to challenge an absentee by mail ballot; to provide for the crime of violating restrictions on witnessing absentee ballot certificates; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1315(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 18:4 and 1461.7(A)(7) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§4. Witness requirements

A. Whenever a document required by or provided for in the Louisiana Election Code is required to be witnessed, the witness shall be at least eighteen years of age.

B. Each witness who signs an absentee by mail ballot certificate as required by the Louisiana Election Code shall provide his mailing address in the appropriate space on the certificate.

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§1315. Challenge of absentee by mail or early voting ballot

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B. During the preparation and verification process for the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots before the election, as applicable, or the counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots on election day, any candidate or his representative, member of the board, or qualified elector may challenge an absentee by mail or early voting ballot for cause, other than those grounds specified in R.S. 18:565(A). Failure to include a witness’s mailing address on an absentee ballot certificate shall not be grounds to challenge an absentee by mail ballot.

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§1461.7. Miscellaneous election offenses; penalties

A. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

* * *

(7) Witness more than one certificate of a voter who is not an immediate family member in violation of R.S. 18:1306.

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Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________

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