Voting is a foundational right that should be accessible to all people. In Louisiana, voters face a variety of challenges to cast their vote, but people with disabilities may face additional challenges voting in person or voting by mail.

This legislation seeks to protect and expand voting opportunities for people with disabilities through the leadership of voters with disabilities and greater oversight and education about accessibility laws.

According to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 1.1 million Louisiana adults live with a disability, which equals 1 in 3 (33%) of adults in the state.

This bill would ensure that election administration in Louisiana is informed by the expertise of voters with disabilities, who would be centered in oversight and solutions.

This legislation would:

- Require the Louisiana Secretary of State to appoint an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Officer to conduct and issue a biannual accessibility audit and share their findings.

- Create a Voting Accessibility Advisory Group within the Department of State that would be made up of 7 members with a diversity of accessibility needs to provide input into voting accessibility.

- Improve the election commissioner training, specifically related to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by:
  - improving accessibility in voting systems
  - creating publications of best practices related to accessible voting for local election officials
  - revising and improving the department’s publications and postings at voting locations
  - increase accessibility of information on the state department’s website

For more info on HB 449