

SENATE, No. 648

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes pilot program in Camden County directing MVC to automatically transmit applicant information to Secretary of State for automatic voter registration.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT establishing a pilot program in Camden County for
2 automatic voter registration using Motor Vehicle Commission
3 applicant information.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
9 contrary, the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
10 Commission, the Secretary of State, and the county commissioner
11 of registration in Camden County shall develop a pilot program for
12 automatic voter registration of applicants who reside in the county,
13 as specified in this section.

14 b. Under the pilot program, the Chief Administrator of the New
15 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall transmit to the Secretary of
16 State electronic records containing the legal name, age, residence,
17 citizenship, and digitized signature of each applicant for a motor
18 vehicle driver's license or non-driver identification card, who
19 resides in Camden County and meets the criteria specified by the
20 Secretary of State that would make that applicant eligible to be a
21 legal voter, for automatic voter registration purposes.

22 Upon receiving an applicant's electronic record and digitized
23 signature, the Secretary of State shall transmit the information to
24 the Camden County commissioner of registration. The county
25 commissioner of registration shall notify the applicant of the
26 automatic voter registration, and shall inform the applicant of the
27 process to decline being registered to vote or, if not declining, of
28 the option to select a political party affiliation. If the applicant does
29 not decline the voter registration within 21 calendar days after the
30 county commissioner of registration issues the notification, the
31 applicant's electronic record and digitized signature shall constitute
32 a complete voter registration form for the purposes of Title 19 of
33 the Revised Statutes, and the applicant shall be registered to vote if
34 the county commissioner of registration determines that the
35 applicant is eligible to register to vote pursuant to Article II, Section
36 I, paragraph 3 of the New Jersey Constitution and Title 19 of the
37 Revised Statutes, and is not disqualified. The Camden County
38 commissioner of registration shall delete the electronic record and
39 digitized signature of an applicant who declines to be registered to
40 vote pursuant to this section.

41 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or
42 regulation to the contrary, a person who is 17 years of age shall be
43 eligible to be registered to vote in accordance with the provisions of
44 this section, provided that the person's registration shall become
45 official on the person's 18th birthday.

46 d. The Chief Administrator shall also transmit to the Secretary
47 of State the electronic record and digitized signature of an applicant
48 residing in Camden County who is updating the legal name or

1 address information on an existing motor vehicle driver's license or
2 non-driver identification card, who meets the criteria specified by
3 the Secretary of State that would qualify that applicant as a legal
4 voter, for automatic voter registration purposes as specified under
5 this section and for updating an existing voter registration record.

6 e. The pilot program shall commence as soon as practicable
7 following the effective date of this section, and shall be conducted
8 during a six-month period. Within 60 days following the expiration
9 of the six-month period, the Secretary of State, the Chief
10 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, and
11 the Camden County commissioner of registration shall develop and
12 submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to
13 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), containing an
14 assessment of the pilot program's efficiency, effectiveness, costs,
15 and other data concerning the program, including recommendations
16 on whether a permanent program for automatic voter registration
17 should be implemented in the State.

18 f. The Secretary of State and the Chief Administrator of the
19 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, in consultation with the
20 Camden County commissioner of registration, shall promulgate any
21 rules, regulations, or guidelines necessary to implement the pilot
22 program.

23
24 2. This act shall take effect immediately, and shall expire
25 within 60 days following implementation of the program or upon
26 submission of the required report.

27 28 29 STATEMENT

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31 This bill establishes a pilot program for automatic voter
32 registration of Camden County residents who apply for a motor
33 vehicle driver's license or non-driver identification card at New
34 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) offices.

35 Under the pilot program, the Chief Administrator of the MVC
36 would transmit to the Secretary of State electronic records
37 containing the legal name, age, residence, citizenship, and digitized
38 signature of each applicant for a motor vehicle driver's license or
39 non-driver identification card, who lives in Camden County and
40 meets the criteria specified by the Secretary of State that would
41 make that applicant eligible to be a legal voter, for automatic voter
42 registration purposes. Upon receiving an applicant's electronic
43 record and digitized signature, the Secretary of State would transmit
44 the information to the Camden County commissioner of
45 registration. The county commissioner of registration would then
46 notify the applicant of the automatic voter registration, and inform
47 the applicant of the process to decline being registered to vote or, if
48 not declining, of the option to select a political party affiliation. If

1 the applicant does not decline the voter registration within 21
2 calendar days after the county commissioner of registration issues
3 the notification, the applicant's electronic record and digitized
4 signature would constitute a complete voter registration form under
5 current law, and the applicant would be registered to vote if the
6 county commissioner of registration determines that the applicant is
7 eligible to register to vote under the State Constitution, and is not
8 disqualified. The Camden County commissioner of registration
9 would be required to delete the electronic record and digitized
10 signature of an applicant who declines to be registered to vote.

11 A person who is 17 years of age would be eligible to be
12 registered to vote under the pilot program, but that person's
13 registration would become official on the person's 18th birthday.

14 Under the pilot program, the Chief Administrator would also
15 transmit to the Secretary of State the electronic record and digitized
16 signature of an applicant residing in Camden County who is
17 updating the legal name or address information on an existing motor
18 vehicle driver's license or non-driver identification card, who meets
19 the criteria specified by the Secretary of State that would qualify
20 that applicant as a legal voter, for automatic voter registration
21 purposes and for updating an existing voter registration record.

22 The pilot program would begin as soon as practicable following
23 the bill's effective date, and would be conducted during a six month
24 period. Within 60 days following the expiration of the six-month
25 period, the Secretary of State, the Chief Administrator, and the
26 Camden County commissioner of registration would develop and
27 submit a report to the Governor and to the Legislature containing an
28 assessment of the pilot program's efficiency, effectiveness, costs,
29 and other data concerning the program, including recommendations
30 on whether a permanent program for automatic voter registration
31 should be implemented in the State.

32 The Secretary of State and the Chief Administrator, in
33 consultation with the Camden County commissioner of registration,
34 would promulgate any rules, regulations, or guidelines necessary to
35 implement the pilot program. The program would expire within 60
36 days following the implementation of the program or upon
37 submission of the required report.

38 The provisions of this bill are modeled after an automatic voter
39 registration law recently enacted in Oregon.