

SENATE, No. 3025

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Cardinale, Oroho, Testa and Holzapfel

SYNOPSIS

Suspends automatic voter registration until implementation of standards and procedures to maintain accuracy of voter rolls.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the suspension of automatic voter registration at
2 the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and supplementing
3 chapter 31 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 23 and 24 of
9 P.L.1994, c.182 (C.39:3-10m and C.39:2-3.2, respectively), section
10 4 of P.L.2018, c.6 (C.19:31-6.14), and any other law, rule, or
11 regulation to the contrary, the automatic voter registration procedures
12 established at the New Jersey Motor Vehicle commission, and as may
13 have been established at other government agencies, pursuant to
14 P.L.2018, c.6, shall be suspended until each county commissioner of
15 registration, county board of elections, and county clerk, in
16 consultation with the Secretary of State, have developed and
17 implemented the necessary uniform standards and procedures to
18 maintain the accuracy of voter registration rolls in the Statewide
19 Voter Registration System, consistent with Title 19 of the Revised
20 Statutes and federal law. The standards shall include, but may not be
21 limited to:

22 (1) procedures to prevent the creation of duplicate voting records
23 for the same person;

24 (2) the timely removal of the voter registration records of
25 inactive, deceased, and non-resident voters; and

26 (3) the routine cross check of voter registration information with
27 other databases maintained by this State and, if feasible, databases of
28 other states, to identify potential voter records that might be eligible
29 for removal.

30 b. Within six months following the effective date of this act,
31 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the
32 secretary and county election officials shall report to the Governor,
33 and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
34 (C.52:14-19.1), the accuracy standards and procedures and the
35 timeline for their implementation. The report shall include
36 recommendations for any statutory changes that may be required
37 prior to their implementation. If statutory changes are required for
38 the implementation of the standards, automatic voter registration
39 shall be reactivated upon their enactment. If statutory changes are not
40 required, automatic voter registration shall be reactivated upon
41 certification by the Secretary of State that the standards are in place
42 and ready for implementation at a date specified by the secretary.

43 c. Voter registration at the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
44 Commission and at any other agency shall be conducted using paper
45 voter registrations in the manner specified under chapter 31 of Title
46 19 of the Revised Statutes, until automatic voter registration is
47 reactivated as provided under this act.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill suspends automatic voter registration at the New Jersey
7 Motor Vehicle Commission, and at other government agencies that
8 may have established automatic voter registration, until the
9 implementation of standards and procedures to maintain the accuracy
10 of the voter rolls in the Statewide Voter Registration System.

11 Under current law, a voter may be removed from the voter rolls
12 upon request by the voter; if the voter failed to respond to a
13 confirmation of address notice and has not voted or appeared to vote
14 in any county as of the day after the second general election for
15 federal office following that date on which the confirmation notice is
16 sent; upon death; upon incarceration; and upon an order by a Judge
17 of the Superior Court. However, during the 2020 primary and general
18 elections, the procedures for automatically sending a mail-in ballot
19 to each active registered voter have revealed instances in which
20 voters who should have been removed from the voter rolls have been
21 sent mail-in ballots.

22 This bill suspends automatic voter registration until each county
23 commissioner of registration, county board of elections, and county
24 clerk, in consultation with the Secretary of State, have developed and
25 implemented the necessary uniform standards and procedures to
26 maintain the accuracy of voter registration rolls consistent with State
27 and federal law. Under the bill, the standards would include, but may
28 not be limited to: (1) procedures to prevent the creation of duplicate
29 voting records for the same person; (2) the timely removal of the
30 voter registration records of inactive, deceased, and non-resident
31 voters; and (3) the routine cross check of voter registration
32 information with other databases maintained by this State and, if
33 feasible, databases of other states, to identify potential voter records
34 that might be eligible for removal.

35 The bill requires the secretary and county election officials, within
36 six months following the effective date, to report to the Governor and
37 the Legislature the accuracy standards and procedures and the
38 timeline for their implementation, including recommendations for
39 any statutory changes that may be required. Under the bill, automatic
40 voter registration would be reactivated upon enactment of the
41 legislation or at a date specified by the secretary, as the case may be.
42 Voter registration at the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and
43 at any other agency would be conducted using paper voter
44 registrations in the manner specified under current law, until
45 automatic voter registration is reactivated.