



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 24**

January Session, 2019



**AN ACT CONCERNING AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION AT CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2019*):

4 (b) (1) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this  
5 section, and except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection,  
6 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994,  
7 shall include an application for the admission of an elector with each  
8 application form provided for a motor vehicle operator's license and a  
9 motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under  
10 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form  
11 provided for an identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such  
12 application form for the admission of an elector [(1)] (A) shall be  
13 subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, [(2)] (B) shall not  
14 include any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and [(3)]  
15 (C) shall contain a statement that [(A)] (i) specifies each eligibility  
16 requirement, [(B)] (ii) contains an attestation that the applicant meets  
17 each such requirement, and [(C)] (iii) requires the signature of the  
18 applicant under penalty of perjury. The Commissioner of Motor  
19 Vehicles shall accept any such completed application for admission

20 which is submitted in person, [or by mail. The] by mail or through an  
21 electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. Except  
22 as provided in said subdivision, the applicant shall state on such form,  
23 under penalty of perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence  
24 address, date of birth, whether the applicant is a United States citizen,  
25 party enrollment, if any, prior voting address, if registered previously,  
26 and that the applicant's privileges as an elector are not forfeited by  
27 reason of conviction of a felony. No Social Security number on any  
28 such application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to  
29 January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental  
30 agency. The commissioner shall indicate on each such form the date of  
31 receipt of such application to ensure that any eligible applicant is  
32 registered to vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner of  
33 Motor Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election.  
34 The commissioner shall provide the applicant with an application  
35 receipt, on a form approved by the Secretary of the State and on which  
36 the commissioner shall record the date that the commissioner received  
37 the application, using an official date stamp bearing the words  
38 "Department of Motor Vehicles". The commissioner shall provide such  
39 receipt whether the application was submitted in person, [or] by mail  
40 or through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of this  
41 subsection. The commissioner shall forthwith transmit the application  
42 to the registrars of voters of the applicant's town of residence. If a  
43 registration application is accepted within five days before the last day  
44 for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be  
45 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence  
46 of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance.  
47 The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g  
48 which are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of  
49 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to  
50 applications made under this section. The commissioner is not an  
51 admitting official and may not restore, under the provisions of section  
52 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

53 (2) On and after October 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Motor

54 Vehicles shall use an electronic system, approved by the Secretary of  
55 the State, to effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this  
56 subsection regarding admission of applicants to be electors, except that  
57 (A) any applicant that qualifies for such admission in accordance with  
58 said subdivision shall be automatically admitted as an elector unless  
59 such applicant declines such admission, and (B) the condition that an  
60 applicant state and attest to meeting each eligibility requirement may  
61 be waived for any such eligibility requirement verified independently  
62 by said commissioner. The use of such electronic system shall comply  
63 with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as  
64 amended from time to time. In the case of an individual already  
65 admitted as an elector and who is also enrolled in a party, if use of  
66 such electronic system results in such elector being removed from the  
67 enrollment list of such party because such elector did not affirmatively  
68 confirm an intent to continue enrollment in such party, such removal  
69 shall be presumed unintentional and such elector shall be restored to  
70 such list upon such elector's notification of such removal to the  
71 registrar of voters of the town in which such elector resides.

72 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 9-23n of the general statutes is  
73 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
74 *October 1, 2019*):

75 (b) [Voter registration agencies shall] (1) Except as provided in  
76 subdivision (2) of this subsection, each voter registration agency shall  
77 (A) distribute mail voter registration application forms, [(2)] (B) assist  
78 applicants for [such assistance or services] service or assistance  
79 provided by the agency in completing voter registration application  
80 forms, except for applicants who refuse [such] assistance in completing  
81 such forms, [(3)] (C) accept completed voter registration application  
82 forms and provide each applicant with an application receipt, on  
83 which the agency shall record the date that the agency received the  
84 application, using an official date stamp bearing the name of the  
85 agency, and [(4)] (D) immediately transmit all such applications to the  
86 registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of the applicants.

87 The agency shall provide such receipt whether the application was  
88 submitted in person, [or] by mail or through an electronic system  
89 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. If a registration  
90 application is accepted within five days before the last day for  
91 registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be  
92 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence  
93 of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance.  
94 [The] Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the voter  
95 registration agency shall indicate on the completed mail voter  
96 registration application form, without indicating the identity of the  
97 voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency, to  
98 ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if  
99 it is received by the registration agency by the last day for registration  
100 to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily engaged in  
101 providing services to persons with disabilities provides services to a  
102 person with a disability at the person's home, the agency shall provide  
103 such voter registration services at the person's home. The procedures  
104 in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g that are not  
105 inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L.  
106 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications  
107 made under this section. Officials and employees of such voter  
108 registration agencies are not admitting officials, as defined in section  
109 9-17a, and may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a,  
110 electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

111 (2) On and after October 1, 2019, each voter registration agency shall  
112 use an electronic system, approved by the Secretary of the State, to  
113 effectuate the purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection regarding  
114 admission of applicants to be electors, except that any applicant that  
115 qualifies for such admission in accordance with said subdivision shall  
116 be automatically admitted as an elector unless such applicant declines  
117 such admission. The use of such electronic system shall comply with  
118 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended  
119 from time to time. In the case of an individual already admitted as an  
120 elector and who is also enrolled in a party, if use of such electronic

121 system results in such elector being removed from the enrollment list  
122 of such party because such elector did not affirmatively confirm an  
123 intent to continue enrollment in such party, such removal shall be  
124 presumed unintentional and such elector shall be restored to such list  
125 upon such elector's notification of such removal to the registrar of  
126 voters of the town in which such elector resides.

127 Sec. 3. Section 9-23o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
128 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

129 A voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n, as amended  
130 by this act, shall comply with the National Voter Registration Act of  
131 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, and (1) shall  
132 distribute with each application for service or assistance provided by  
133 the agency, and with each recertification, renewal or change of address  
134 form relating to such service or assistance, a mail voter registration  
135 application form approved by the Secretary of the State, and (2) on and  
136 after October 1, 2019, during each application for such service or  
137 assistance and each recertification, renewal or change of address  
138 relating to such service, shall automatically admit as an elector any  
139 applicant that qualifies for such admission through an electronic  
140 system pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of said section,  
141 unless the applicant declines to register to vote pursuant to the  
142 provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31,  
143 as amended from time to time. Such declination shall be in writing,  
144 except in the case of an application for service or assistance provided  
145 by a library, or a recertification, renewal or change of address form  
146 relating to such library service or assistance. Such voter registration  
147 agency shall provide each applicant to register to vote the same degree  
148 of assistance with regard to the completion of the registration  
149 application form as is provided by the agency with regard to the  
150 completion of its own forms, unless the applicant refuses such  
151 assistance.

152 Sec. 4. Section 9-23p of the general statutes is repealed and the  
153 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

154 Each public institution of higher education shall (1) distribute mail  
155 voter registration application forms, (2) on and after October 1, 2019,  
156 automatically admit as an elector any applicant that qualifies for such  
157 admission through an electronic system pursuant to subdivision (2) of  
158 subsection (b) of section 9-23n, as amended by this act, and [(2)] (3)  
159 assist applicants who request assistance in completing such voter  
160 registration application forms or registering through such electronic  
161 system.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2019	9-19h(b)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2019	9-23n(b)
Sec. 3	October 1, 2019	9-23o
Sec. 4	October 1, 2019	9-23p

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 2 (b)(1), "voter agency" was changed to "voter registration agency" for accuracy and consistency; and in Section 3 (2), "thereto" was changed to "to such service" for consistency.

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*