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HOUSE BILL 84

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Daymon Ely

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE AUTOMATIC VOTER
REGISTRATION AND UPDATING OF QUALIFIED ELECTORS AT THE MOTOR
VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT AND
CERTAIN OTHER STATE AGENCIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 1-4-47 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991,
Chapter 80, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"1-4-47. DRIVER'S LICENSE VOTER REGISTRATION.--

A. Every person who is a qualified elector and is
applying for a driver's license or identification card, or to
renew or update a driver's license or [~~for an~~] identification
card shall, if qualified to register to vote, [~~with the consent~~
~~of the applicant~~] be simultaneously automatically registered to
vote, or shall have an existing voter registration

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1 automatically updated, unless the person declines to register
2 or to update the person's registration during the application
3 process.

4 B. The secretary of taxation and revenue shall
5 select certain employees of the motor vehicle division of the
6 taxation and revenue department or employees of entities on
7 contract to provide immediate field services to the motor
8 vehicle division to provide assistance to any applicant
9 requesting voter registration assistance.

10 C. Every motor vehicle division office, field
11 office or contract field office of the division shall display
12 within the offices clearly visible signs stating "voter
13 registration assistance available" and shall ensure that:

14 (1) ~~[personnel in each office shall advise~~
15 ~~each person who is a qualified elector and an applicant for~~
16 ~~licensure or renewal or for an identification card that initial~~
17 ~~voter registration or a change of address for voter~~
18 ~~registration may be made simultaneously with the motor vehicle~~
19 ~~application]~~ the application for issuance or renewal of a
20 driver's license or identification card contains a notice that
21 the information provided on the application will be used to
22 automatically register the applicant to vote or to
23 automatically update the applicant's voter registration, unless
24 the applicant specifically declines to register or to update
25 the applicant's voter registration during the application

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1 process;

2 (2) each person who is a qualified elector and
3 an applicant for a driver's license or identification card, or
4 a renewal of a driver's license or identification card, is
5 offered an opportunity during the application process to
6 decline to register to vote or to update the person's voter
7 registration;

8 (3) the application for issuance or renewal of
9 a driver's license or identification card contains a notice
10 that an applicant who is a victim of domestic violence or
11 stalking may decline to register to vote or to update the
12 applicant's voter registration under this section, but may
13 register to vote without publicly disclosing the applicant's
14 street address pursuant to the Confidential Substitute Address
15 Act;

16 [~~(2)~~] (4) voter registration shall be
17 conducted in a manner such that the applicant completes the
18 full certificate of registration electronically; and

19 [~~(3)~~] (5) the applicant's digital signature
20 shall be affixed to the certificate of registration using an
21 electronic signature in conformance with the Electronic
22 Authentication of Documents Act and the Uniform Electronic
23 Transactions Act.

24 D. [~~A motor vehicle division employee or~~
25 ~~contractor~~] No person who issues or renews a driver's license

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1 or identification card shall [~~not~~] intentionally influence the
2 prospective registrant in the selection of political party, or
3 independent status, by word or act. [~~A motor vehicle division~~
4 ~~employee or contractor~~] No person who issues or renews a
5 driver's license or identification card shall [~~not~~] reveal the
6 existence of or the nature of the voter registration to anyone
7 other than a registration officer.

8 E. Any voter registration made or [~~accepted at a~~
9 ~~motor vehicle division office or motor vehicle division field~~
10 ~~office~~] updated at any office, including a field office, of the
11 motor vehicle division or a contractor of the motor vehicle
12 division shall be transmitted to the secretary of state and the
13 appropriate registration officer within seven calendar days.

14 F. The secretary of state shall work with the motor
15 vehicle division to:

16 (1) ensure compliance in the application of
17 the provisions of this section with the federal National Voter
18 Registration Act of 1993;

19 (2) ensure consistent implementation in the
20 various counties, based on county classification and developing
21 technology; and

22 (3) develop procedures to ensure that, once
23 voter registration information is transmitted to the
24 appropriate registration officer, the voter's certificate of
25 registration is printed and placed in the county's register of

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1 voters.

2 G. If a person who is not entitled to vote becomes
3 registered to vote pursuant to this section, that registration
4 shall not be valid."

5 SECTION 2. Section 1-4-48 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
6 Chapter 198, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:

7 "1-4-48. AGENCY REGISTRATION--AGENCY AUTOMATIC VOTER
8 REGISTRATION.--

9 A. The secretary of state shall adopt and publish
10 in accordance with the State Rules Act rules for the
11 administration of a state-agency-based voter registration
12 program. The rules shall provide for distribution of voter
13 registration forms, provisions for the acceptance of voter
14 registration forms and procedures for reporting voter
15 registration activity in accordance with the federal National
16 Voter Registration Act of 1993.

17 B. Voter registration shall be made available at
18 all state agencies providing public assistance or services to
19 people with disabilities. The secretary of state may, with the
20 agreement of those offices, designate other state and local
21 public offices to provide voter registration services.

22 C. Each state agency participating in the voter
23 registration program shall maintain sufficient records for the
24 secretary of state to comply with federal voter registration
25 reporting requirements and the federal Help America Vote Act of

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1 2002. Any records maintained by a state agency regarding voter
2 registration activities in that agency are confidential and
3 shall not be released as public records.

4 D. Any voter registration made or accepted at a
5 state agency pursuant to this section shall be transmitted to
6 the appropriate registration officer within [~~ten~~] seven
7 calendar days.

8 E. A state agency employee or agency contractor who
9 participates in the voter registration process may not
10 intentionally influence the prospective registrant in the
11 selection of political party, or independent status, by word or
12 act. A state agency employee or agency contractor who
13 participates in the voter registration process may not reveal
14 the existence of or the nature of the voter registration to
15 anyone other than a registration officer.

16 F. A person who is a qualified elector and
17 completes an application to register to vote or to update the
18 person's voter registration at an automatic voter registration
19 agency shall automatically be registered to vote or to have the
20 person's voter registration updated unless the person declines.
21 A person who is a qualified elector shall be provided the
22 opportunity to decline to register to vote or to update the
23 person's registration prior to automatically being registered
24 to vote or having the person's registration updated.

25 G. Upon receiving a request for services or

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1 assistance to register to vote or update voter registration at
2 an automatic voter registration agency, the automatic voter
3 registration agency shall provide:

4 (1) notice that, if the applicant is eligible
5 to register to vote or to have the applicant's voter
6 registration updated, the information provided on the
7 application will be used to register the applicant to vote or
8 to update the applicant's registration, unless the applicant
9 specifically declines;

10 (2) each person with an opportunity during the
11 application process to decline voter registration or to have
12 the person's voter registration updated; and

13 (3) notice that an applicant who is a victim
14 of domestic violence or stalking may decline to register to
15 vote or to update the applicant's voter registration under this
16 section, but may register to vote without publicly disclosing
17 the applicant's street address pursuant to the Confidential
18 Substitute Address Act.

19 H. Voter registration or updating of voter
20 registration under this section shall be conducted in a manner
21 such that the:

22 (1) applicant completes the full certificate
23 of registration electronically; and

24 (2) applicant's digital signature is affixed
25 to the certificate of registration using an electronic

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1 signature in conformance with the Electronic Authentication of
2 Documents Act and the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.

3 I. If a person who is not entitled to vote becomes
4 registered to vote pursuant to this section, that registration
5 shall not be valid.

6 J. Each year, the secretary of state shall conduct
7 a review of each agency not already designated as an automatic
8 voter registration agency to determine whether designation is
9 appropriate. The secretary of state shall designate each such
10 agency that collects information or documents that would
11 provide proof of eligibility to vote unless the secretary of
12 state determines that there are compelling reasons why
13 automatic voter registration is not feasible at the agency. If
14 the secretary of state determines that there are compelling
15 reasons why automatic voter registration is not feasible at an
16 agency, the secretary of state shall prepare a report
17 explaining those reasons, provide that report to the
18 legislative council service and provide a presentation to the
19 appropriate interim legislative committee by the end of October
20 in the calendar year in which that determination is made.

21 K. The secretary of state shall adopt and publish
22 rules in accordance with the State Rules Act for the
23 administration of automatic voter registration and voter
24 registration updating at automatic voter registration agencies.
25 The rules shall provide for registration and updating in

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1 accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
2 the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and this 2019 act.

3 L. The secretary of state shall work with each
4 automatic voter registration agency to take appropriate
5 measures to educate the public about automatic voter
6 registration and updating under this section.

7 M. As used in this section, "automatic voter
8 registration agency" means:

- 9 (1) the taxation and revenue department;
- 10 (2) the human services department; and
- 11 (3) any other state agency that the secretary
12 of state designates; provided that the secretary of state may
13 only designate an agency as an automatic voter registration
14 agency after verifying that the agency collects information or
15 documents that would provide proof of eligibility to vote."

16 **SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The effective date of the
17 provisions of this act is July 1, 2019.