ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 370-ASSEMBLYMEN HANSEN, DICKMAN; GURR, HAFEN, HARDY, KASAMA, KOENIG, MCARTHUR AND YUREK

MARCH 22, 2023

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR HANSEN

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing elections. (BDR 24-202)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.

Effect on the State: Yes.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets fomitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to elections; requiring each form for an application to preregister or register to vote, the system established by the Secretary of State to register to vote by computer and each automatic voter registration system to allow a person registering to vote or updating his or her voter registration information to elect not to receive a mail ballot or only receive a mail ballot for certain elections; authorizing a person to affirmatively decline to have his or her voter registration information sent by a voter registration agency through the automatic voter registration system; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:** 

Existing law requires, with limited exceptions, the county clerk and city clerk to distribute a mail ballot for every election to each active registered voter in the county or city, as applicable, and each person who registers to vote or updates his or her voter registration information not later than 14 days before the election. The county clerk or city clerk are also required to allow a voter to elect not to receive a mail ballot by submitting a written notice in the form prescribed by the clerk which must be received not later than 60 days before the day of the election. (NRS 293.269911, 293.269913, 293C.263, 293C.26312) **Section 1** of this bill requires each form for an application to preregister or register to vote that is prescribed by





the Secretary of State, the system established by the Secretary of State to preregister or register to vote by computer and each automatic voter registration system to allow a person to elect not to receive a mail ballot, elect to receive a mail ballot for all future elections or elect to receive a mail ballot only for certain future elections. **Sections 2 and 6** of this bill make conforming changes to provide that a county clerk or city clerk is prohibited from distributing a mail ballot to any person who elects not to receive a mail ballot using the form.

Existing law requires, effective January 1, 2024, the Secretary of State and each automatic voter registration agency to establish a system, commonly known as an automatic voter registration system, by which voter registration information is transmitted electronically to the top-down voter registration database created by the Secretary of State. Upon transmission of the information to the database, the county clerk is required to collate the information into an application to register to vote, determine whether the person is eligible to register to vote in this State and, if so, send to the person by mail certain information, including, without limitation, a notice that the person may affirmatively decline in writing to register to vote. (NRS 293.5768, 293.57693) Section 3 of this bill requires an automatic voter registration agency to provide the person with a notice in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State that allows the person to affirmatively decline to have his or her information transmitted using the automatic voter registration system for purposes of applying to register to vote or have his or her voter registration information updated. If a person affirmatively declines in writing, section 3 prohibits the automatic voter registration agency from transmitting any information about the person using the automatic voter registration system. If a person does not affirmatively decline at the automatic voter registration agency, the person may still affirmatively decline to register to vote or update his or her voter registration when the county clerk sends certain notification to the person after his or her information is transmitted to the voter registration database created by the Secretary of State. (NRS 293.57693)

**Section 4** of this bill makes a conforming change to create an exception to the general requirement that an automatic voter registration agency electronically transmit certain information to the voter registration database created by the Secretary of State.

Existing law authorizes a person who is not eligible to have his or her voter registration transmitted by an automatic voter registration agency to the voter registration database created by the Secretary of State to still apply to register to vote at the automatic voter registration agency. (NRS 293.57697) **Section 5** of this bill provides similarly that a person who affirmatively declines to have his or her information transmitted by the automatic voter registration system may still apply to register to vote at the automatic voter registration agency.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 293 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The county clerk or city clerk shall not send a mail ballot for an election to any registered voter who has elected not to receive a mail ballot pursuant to this section by submitting the form or amended form, as applicable, described in this section not later than 60 days before the date of the election.



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- 2. Each form for an application to preregister or register to vote that is prescribed by the Secretary of State, the system established by the Secretary of State pursuant to NRS 293.671 to allow a person to preregister or register to vote by computer and each automatic voter registration system established pursuant to NRS 293.57686 shall allow a person preregistering or registering to vote or updating his or her voter registration to:
  - (a) Elect not to receive a mail ballot; or

- (b) Elect to receive a mail ballot for all future elections or only:
  - (1) All future primary elections;
  - (2) All future primary city elections;
  - (3) All future general elections;
  - (4) All future general city elections;
  - (5) All future special elections;
  - (6) All future presidential preference primary elections; or
- (7) Any combination of the elections described in subparagraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.
- 3. The Secretary of State and each county clerk and city clerk shall make a form available upon request to each person who is preregistered to vote and each registered voter to allow the person or registered voter to change his or her preferences for mail ballots. Such form must provide the person or registered voter with the same options as described in subsection 2.
- **Sec. 2.** NRS 293.269911 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.269911 1. Except as otherwise provided in [this section,] section 1 of this act, the county clerk shall prepare and distribute to each active registered voter in the county and each person who registers to vote or updates his or her voter registration information not later than the 14 days before the election a mail ballot for every election. The county clerk shall make reasonable accommodations for the use of the mail ballot by a person who is elderly or disabled, including, without limitation, by providing, upon request, the mail ballot in 12-point type to a person who is elderly or disabled.
- 2. [The county clerk shall allow a voter to elect not to receive a mail ballot pursuant to this section by submitting to the county clerk a written notice in the form prescribed by the county clerk which must be received by the county clerk not later than 60 days before the day of the election.
- $\frac{3.1}{2}$  The county clerk shall not distribute a mail ballot to any person who:
- (a) Registers to vote for the election pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.5772 to 293.5887, inclusive; or





- (b) Elects not to receive a mail ballot using the form required pursuant to [subsection 2.] section 1 of this act.
- [4.] 3. The mail ballot must include all offices, candidates and measures upon which the voter is entitled to vote at the election.
- [5.] 4. Except as otherwise provided in [subsections] subsection 2, [and 3,] the mail ballot must be distributed to:
  - (a) Each active registered voter who:

- (1) Resides within the State, not later than 20 days before the election; and
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), resides outside the State, not later than 40 days before the election.
- (b) Each active registered voter who registers to vote after the dates set for distributing mail ballots pursuant to paragraph (a) but who is eligible to receive a mail ballot pursuant to subsection 1, not later than 13 days before the election.
- (c) Each covered voter who is entitled to have a military-overseas ballot transmitted pursuant to the provisions of chapter 293D of NRS or the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20301 et seq., not later than the time required by those provisions.
- [6.] 5. In the case of a special election where no candidate for federal office will appear on the ballot, the mail ballot must be distributed to each active registered voter not later than 15 days before the special election.
- [7.] 6. Any untimely legal action which would prevent the mail ballot from being distributed to any voter pursuant to this section is moot and of no effect.
  - **Sec. 3.** NRS 293.5768 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.5768 1. The following agencies are automatic voter registration agencies:
  - (a) The Department of Motor Vehicles;
  - (b) The Department of Health and Human Services;
- (c) Any agency designated by the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to receive applications for Medicaid;
- (d) The Silver State Health Insurance Exchange created by NRS 695I.200;
- (e) Any agency that has been designated by the Governor as an automatic voter registration agency pursuant to NRS 293.57682; and
- (f) Any agency of an Indian tribe that has been designated by the Governor to be an automatic voter registration agency pursuant to NRS 293.57684.
- 2. If, in the normal course of business, an automatic voter registration agency collects sufficient information that demonstrates a person is qualified to vote pursuant to NRS 293.485, including, without limitation, proof of identity, citizenship, residence and date





of birth, the provisions of NRS 293.5768 to 293.57699, inclusive, apply to the automatic voter registration agency when a person submits any of the following:

- (a) An application for the issuance or renewal of or change of address for any type of driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- (b) An application for Medicaid through the system established by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to NRS 422.2703:
- (c) An application for health insurance through the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange; and
- (d) An application for any service or assistance from an automatic voter registration agency described in paragraph (e) or (f) of subsection 1.
- 3. Before concluding a transaction described in subsection 2, the automatic voter registration agency shall provide the person with a notice in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State that allows the person to affirmatively decline to have his or her information transmitted using the system established pursuant to NRS 293.57686 for purposes of applying to register to vote or have his or her voter registration updated, as applicable.
  - 4. An automatic voter registration agency shall not:
- (a) Request any additional information for purposes of voter registration that is not required in the normal course of business; and
- (b) Transmit any information about a person using the system established pursuant to NRS 293.57686 if the person [did]:
- (1) Did not provide the agency in the normal course of business sufficient information that demonstrates the person is qualified to vote pursuant to NRS 293.485, including, without limitation, proof of identity, citizenship, residence and date of birth []; or
- (2) Affirmatively declined in writing to apply to register to vote or have his or her voter registration information updated, as applicable, pursuant to subsection 3.
  - **Sec. 4.** NRS 293.57688 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.57688 1. [An] Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.5768, an automatic voter registration agency is required to electronically transmit the following information of a person to the database created by the Secretary of State pursuant to NRS 293.675 using the system established pursuant to NRS 293.57686:
- (a) An electronic facsimile of the signature of the person, if the automatic voter registration agency is capable of recording, storing and transmitting to the county clerk an electronic facsimile of the signature of the person;
  - (b) The first or given name and the surname of the person;





- (c) The address at which the person actually resides as set forth in NRS 293.486 and, if different, the address at which the person may receive mail, including, without limitation, a post office box or general delivery;
  - (d) The date of birth of the person;
  - (e) At least one of the following:

- (1) The number indicated on the person's current and valid driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles; or
- (2) The last four digits of the person's social security number; and
- (f) A description of the documentation presented to the automatic voter registration agency that indicates the person is a citizen of the United States.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.5768, the automatic voter registration agency shall electronically transmit to the database created by the Secretary of State pursuant to NRS 293.675 the information described in subsection 1:
- (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), not later than 5 working days after collecting the information; and
- (b) During the 2 weeks immediately preceding the fifth Sunday preceding an election, not later than 1 working day after collecting the information.
  - **Sec. 5.** NRS 293.57697 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.57697 1. A person who is not eligible to have his or her voter registration information transmitted by an automatic voter registration agency to the database created by the Secretary of State pursuant to NRS 293.675 or who affirmatively declines to have his or her information transmitted pursuant to NRS 293.5768 may still apply to register to vote at the automatic voter registration agency.
- 2. Whether a person is eligible to have his or her voter registration information transmitted by the automatic voter registration agency to the database created by the Secretary of State pursuant to NRS 293.675 or otherwise registers to vote must not affect the provision of services or assistance to the person by the automatic voter registration agency, and whether voter registration information is transferred by the automatic voter registration agency must not be disclosed to the public.
- 3. Any information transferred pursuant to NRS 293.5768 to 293.57699, inclusive, must not be used for any purpose other than voter registration.
  - **Sec. 6.** NRS 293C.263 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293C.263 1. Except as otherwise provided in [this section,] section 1 of this act, the city clerk shall prepare and distribute to





each active registered voter in the city and each person who registers to vote or updates his or her voter registration information not later than the 14 days before the election a mail ballot for every election. The city clerk shall make reasonable accommodations for the use of the mail ballot by a person who is elderly or disabled, including, without limitation, by providing, upon request, the mail ballot in 12-point type to a person who is elderly or disabled.

- 2. The city clerk shall allow a voter to elect not to receive a mail ballot pursuant to this section by submitting to the city clerk a written notice in the form prescribed by the city clerk which must be received by the city clerk not later than 60 days before the day of the election.
- 3.] The city clerk shall not distribute a mail ballot to any person who:
- (a) Registers to vote for the election pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.5772 to 293.5887, inclusive; or
- (b) Elects not to receive a mail ballot using the form required pursuant to [subsection 2.] section 1 of this act.
- [4.] 3. The mail ballot must include all offices, candidates and measures upon which the voter is entitled to vote at the election.
- [5.] 4. Except as otherwise provided in [subsections] subsection 2, [and 3,] the mail ballot must be distributed to:
  - (a) Each active registered voter who:
- (1) Resides within the State, not later than 20 days before the election; and
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), resides outside the State, not later than 40 days before the election.
- (b) Each active registered voter who registers to vote after the dates set for distributing mail ballots pursuant to paragraph (a) but who is eligible to receive a mail ballot pursuant to subsection 1, not later than 13 days before the election.
- (c) Each covered voter who is entitled to have a military-overseas ballot transmitted pursuant to the provisions of chapter 293D of NRS or the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20301 et seq., not later than the time required by those provisions.
- [6.] 5. In the case of a special election where no candidate for federal office will appear on the ballot, the mail ballot must be distributed to each active registered voter not later than 15 days before the special election.
- [7.] 6. Any untimely legal action which would prevent the mail ballot from being distributed to any voter pursuant to this section is moot and of no effect.
- **Sec. 7.** 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.





2. Sections 1 to 6, inclusive, of this act become effective:
(a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and (b) On January 1, 2024, for all other purposes.





