

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4579

FISCAL
NOTE

BY DELEGATES LANE, SUMMERS, HANSHAW, ZATEZALO,

STORCH, MANCHIN, SKINNER, MILEY, SOBONYA,

FLUHARTY AND BYRD

REQUESTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

[Introduced February 17, 2016; Referred

to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §3-2-4a and §3-2-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
2 amended, all relating to voter registration list maintenance and the combined voter
3 registration and driver licensing fund; and providing that under certain circumstances
4 moneys from that fund would be transferred to another fund.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §3-2-4a and §3-2-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
2 and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

§3-2-4a. Statewide voter registration database.

1 (a) The Secretary of State shall implement and maintain a single, official, statewide,
2 centralized, interactive computerized voter registration database of every legally registered voter
3 in the state, as follows:

4 (1) The statewide voter registration database shall serve as the single system for storing
5 and managing the official list of registered voters throughout the state.

6 (2) The statewide voter registration database shall contain the name, registration
7 information and voter history of every legally registered voter in the state.

8 (3) In the statewide voter registration database, the Secretary of State shall assign a
9 unique identifier to each legally registered voter in the state.

10 (4) The statewide voter registration database shall be coordinated with other agency
11 databases within the state and elsewhere, as appropriate.

12 (5) The Secretary of State, any clerk of the county commission or any authorized designee
13 of the Secretary of State or clerk of the county commission may obtain immediate electronic
14 access to the information contained in the statewide voter registration database.

15 (6) The clerk of the county commission shall electronically enter voter registration
16 information into the statewide voter registration database on an expedited basis at the time the
17 information is provided to the clerk.

18 (7) The Secretary of State shall provide necessary support to enable every clerk of the
19 county commission in the state to enter information as described in subdivision (6) of this
20 subsection.

21 (8) The statewide voter registration database shall serve as the official voter registration
22 list for conducting all elections in the state.

23 (b) The Secretary of State or any clerk of a county commission shall perform maintenance
24 with respect to the statewide voter registration database on a regular basis as follows:

25 (1) If an individual is to be removed from the statewide voter registration database, he or
26 she shall be removed in accordance with the provisions of 42 U. S. C. §1973gg, *et seq.*, the
27 National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

28 (2) The Secretary of State shall coordinate the statewide voter registration database with
29 state agency records and shall establish procedures for the removal of names of individuals who
30 are not qualified to vote because of felony status or death. No state agency may withhold
31 information regarding a voter's status as deceased or as a felon unless ordered by a court of law.

32 (c) The list maintenance performed under subsection (b) of this section shall be conducted
33 in a manner that ensures that:

34 (1) The name of each registered voter appears in the statewide voter registration
35 database;

36 (2) Only voters who are not registered, who have requested in writing that their voter
37 registration be canceled or who are not eligible to vote are removed from the statewide voter
38 registration database;

39 (3) Duplicate names are eliminated from the statewide voter registration database; and

40 (4) Deceased individuals' names are eliminated from the statewide voter registration
41 database.

42 (d) The Secretary of State and the clerks of all county commissions shall provide adequate
43 technological security measures to prevent the unauthorized access to the statewide voter

44 registration database established under this section.

45 (e) The Secretary of State shall ensure that voter registration records in the state are
46 accurate and updated regularly, including the following:

47 (1) A system of file maintenance that makes a reasonable effort to remove registrants who
48 are ineligible to vote from the official list of eligible voters. Under the system, consistent with 42
49 U. S. C. §1973gg, *et seq.*, registrants who have not responded to a notice sent pursuant to section
50 twenty six, article two of this chapter, who have not otherwise updated their voter registration
51 address and who have not voted in two consecutive general elections for federal office shall be
52 removed from the official list of eligible voters, except that no registrant may be removed solely
53 by reason of a failure to vote;

54 (2) By participation in programs across state lines to share data specifically for voter
55 registration to ensure that voters who have moved across state lines or become deceased in
56 another state are removed in accordance with state law and 42 U. S. C. §1973gg, *et seq.*; and

57 (3) Through safeguards to ensure that eligible voters are not removed in error from the
58 official list of eligible voters.

59 (f) Applications for voter registration may only be accepted when the following information
60 is provided:

61 (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection and notwithstanding any other
62 provision of law to the contrary, an application for voter registration may not be accepted or
63 processed unless the application includes:

64 (A) In the case of an applicant who has been issued a current and valid driver's license,
65 the applicant's driver's license number;

66 (B) In the case of an applicant who has been issued an identification card by the Division
67 of Motor Vehicles, the applicant's identification number; or

68 (C) In the case of any other applicant, the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security
69 number; and

70 (2) If an applicant for voter registration has not been issued a current and valid driver's
71 license, Division of Motor Vehicles identification card or a Social Security number, the Secretary
72 of State shall assign the applicant a number which will serve to identify the applicant for voter
73 registration purposes. The number assigned under this subdivision shall be the unique identifying
74 number assigned under the statewide voter registration database.

75 (g)(1) The Secretary of State and the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall
76 enter into an agreement to match and transfer applicable information in the statewide voter
77 registration database with information in the database of the Division of Motor Vehicles to the
78 extent required to enable each official to verify the accuracy of the information provided on
79 applications for voter registration.

80 (2) The Secretary of State and Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall enter
81 into an agreement for the Division of Motor vehicles to provide all name fields, residence and
82 mailing address fields, driver's license or state identification number, last four digits of the Social
83 Security number, date of birth, license or identification issuance and expiration dates, and current
84 record status of individuals eligible to register to vote to the Secretary of State for the purpose of
85 voter registration list maintenance comparison through an interstate data-sharing agreement as
86 designated by the Secretary of State.

87 (h) The Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with
88 the Commissioner of Social Security under 42 U. S. C. §401, *et seq.*, the Social Security Act. All
89 fees associated with this agreement shall be paid for from moneys in the fund created under
90 section twelve of this article.

§3-2-12. Combined voter registration and driver licensing fund; transfer of funds.

1 (a) Fifty cents of each license fee collected pursuant to the provisions of section one,
2 article three, chapter seventeen of this code shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of
3 a special revenue fund to be known as the "Combined Voter Registration and Driver Licensing
4 Fund." The moneys so credited to such fund may be used by the Secretary of State for the

5 following purposes:

6 (1) Printing and distribution of combined driver licensing or other agency applications and
7 voter registration forms, or for the printing of voter registration forms to be used in conjunction
8 with driver licensing or other agency applications;

9 (2) Printing and distribution of mail voter registration forms for purposes of this article;

10 (3) Supplies, postage and mailing costs for correspondence relating to voter registration
11 for agency registration sites and for the return of completed voter registration forms to the
12 appropriate state or county election official;

13 (4) Reimbursement of postage and mailing costs incurred by clerks of the county
14 commissions for sending a verification mailing, confirmation of registration or other mailings
15 directly resulting from an application to register, change or update a voter's registration through a
16 driver licensing or other agency;

17 (5) Reimbursement to state funded agencies designated to provide voter registration
18 services under this chapter for personnel costs associated with the time apportioned to voter
19 registration services and assistance;

20 (6) The purchase, printing and distribution of public information and other necessary
21 materials or equipment to be used in conjunction with voter registration services provided by state
22 funded agencies designated pursuant to the provisions of this article;

23 (7) The development of a statewide program of uniform voter registration computerization
24 for use by each county registration office and the Secretary of State, purchase of uniform voter
25 registration software, payment of software installation costs and reimbursement to the county
26 commissions of not more than fifty percent of the cost per voter for data entry or data conversion
27 from a previous voter registration software program;

28 (8) Payment of up to fifty percent of the costs of conducting a joint program with
29 participating counties to identify ineligible voters by using the United States postal service
30 information as provided in section twenty-five of this article: *Provided*, That such assistance shall

31 be available only to counties which maintain voter registration lists on the statewide uniform voter
32 data system; and

33 (9) Payment of any dues or fees associated with a program to match and transfer data to
34 and from other states and resources related to voter registration and list maintenance; and

35 ~~(9)~~ (10) Payment or reimbursement of other costs associated with implementation of the
36 requirements of the "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" (42 U.S.C. 1973gg): *Provided*, That
37 revenue received by the fund in any fiscal year shall first be allocated to the purposes set forth in
38 subdivisions (1) through ~~(8)~~ (9) of this subsection.

39 (b) The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules pursuant to the provisions of chapter
40 twenty-nine-a of this code to provide for the administration of the fund established in subsection
41 (a) of this section.

42 (c) Any balance in the fund created by subsection (a) of this section which exceeds
43 \$100,000 as of June 30, 2016, and each year thereafter, shall be transferred to the Supreme
44 Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Fund established by section five, article twelve of
45 this chapter.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill concerns the voter registration list maintenance and the combined voter registration and driver licensing fund. The bill provides that under certain circumstances moneys from that fund would be transferred to another fund.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.