

ASSEMBLY, No. 553

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT AUTH

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman BETTYLOU DECROCE

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Space, Wirths, Catalano and McGuckin

SYNOPSIS

Provides for agreement between Secretary of State and AOC to match information in Statewide voter registration system with certain jury records in order to identify and remove ineligible non-citizen voter registrants from system.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/22/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the maintenance and integrity of the Statewide
2 voter registration system, and amending P.L.2005, c.145.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 2 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-32) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. The Statewide voter registration system shall replace all
10 other computer or electronic-based registry files of voters and other
11 voter registration files established and maintained by each county
12 commissioner of registration for voter registration and election
13 administration purposes established pursuant to the provisions of
14 Title 19 and Title 40 of the Revised Statutes, and shall be the single
15 system for storing and managing the official file of registered voters
16 throughout the State. A commissioner may, however, continue to
17 use and maintain as a supplement to the system the original and
18 duplicate permanent registration binders and voting records and
19 shall continue to use and maintain the signature copy registers or
20 polling records provided for in Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

21 b. Each county commissioner of registration shall be
22 responsible for adding to, deleting from, amending and otherwise
23 conducting on a regular basis maintenance for the files of every
24 legally registered voter in that commissioner's county as contained
25 in the Statewide voter registration system, pursuant to the
26 provisions of **section 303 of Pub.L.107-252 (42 U.S.C. s. 15301 et**
27 **seq.)** 52 U.S.C. s.21083 and Title 19 of the Revised Statutes. Each
28 commissioner shall be responsible for verifying the accuracy of the
29 name, address and other data of registered voters in the
30 commissioner's respective county as contained in the system. The
31 commissioner who receives the voter registration forms of
32 individuals who have registered to vote in the county or who are re-
33 registering for any reason shall be responsible for entering the
34 information on those forms into the system on an expedited basis,
35 including but not limited to forms and information received
36 pursuant to chapter 31 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes. The
37 information the commissioner shall use to update and maintain the
38 system shall be that required by subsection c. of section 1 of
39 P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31).

40 c. The Attorney General and each county commissioner of
41 registration shall be responsible for developing and providing the
42 technological security measures needed to prevent unauthorized
43 access to the Statewide voter registration system established
44 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2005, c.145 (C.19:31-31) and to the

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 information for any individual on the system required by subsection
2 c. of section 1 of that act.

3 d. The Attorney General, in consultation with each county
4 commissioner of registration, shall develop minimum standards to
5 safeguard the accuracy of the files contained in the Statewide voter
6 registration system. Such standards shall include procedures to
7 ensure that reasonable effort is made to remove registrants who are
8 ineligible to vote pursuant to federal or State law and to ensure that
9 eligible voters are not removed in error from the system.

10 e. (1) The Attorney General and the Chief Administrator of the
11 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission in the Department of
12 Transportation shall enter into an agreement to match information
13 in the database of the Statewide voter registration system with
14 information in the database of the commission, including social
15 security numbers, to the extent required to enable verification of the
16 accuracy of the information provided on applications for voter
17 registration.

18 (2) The Attorney General shall enter into an agreement with the
19 Commissioner of the Department of Health **and Senior Services**
20 to match information in the database of the Statewide voter
21 registration system with State agency information on death records.

22 (3) The Attorney General shall enter into an agreement with the
23 Commissioner of the Department of Corrections to match
24 information in the database of the Statewide voter registration
25 system with State agency information on individuals who are
26 incarcerated, on probation, or on parole as the result of a conviction
27 for an indictable offense.

28 (4) (a) The Attorney General shall enter into an agreement with
29 the Administrative Office of the Courts to match information in the
30 database of the Statewide voter registration system with State
31 agency information on individuals who are incarcerated, on
32 probation, or on parole as the result of a conviction for an indictable
33 offense.

34 (b) Pursuant to the Secretary of State assuming the designation
35 and responsibilities of the chief State election official from the
36 Attorney General in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1994, c.182
37 (C.19:31-6a) and section 1 of P.L.2007, c.254 (C.52:16A-98), the
38 Secretary of State shall enter into an agreement with the
39 Administrative Office of the Courts to match information in the
40 database of the Statewide voter registration system with the juror
41 records kept, as required by N.J.S.2B:20-9, of all requests for
42 excuses and deferrals of jury duty and grants thereof, so that those
43 persons summoned for jury service who indicate non-citizenship as
44 the basis for being excused may be identified and removed from the
45 database of the Statewide voter registration system as an ineligible
46 registrant in accordance with applicable law. The agreement shall
47 apply retroactively to all available juror records maintained since
48 the enactment of sections 23 and 24 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.39:3-

1 10m and 39:2-3.2), permitting a person to register to vote while
2 applying for a motor vehicle driver's license.

3 (5) The Attorney General shall enter into an agreement with the
4 State Parole Board to match information in the database of the
5 Statewide voter registration system with State agency information
6 on individuals who are on parole.
7 (cf: P.L.2005, c.145, s.2)

8
9 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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12 STATEMENT

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14 This bill would require the Secretary of State, as the chief State
15 election official, to enter into an agreement with the Judiciary's
16 Administrative Office of the Courts to match information in the
17 database of the Statewide voter registration system with the juror
18 records kept pursuant to N.J.S.2B:20-9 concerning all requests for
19 excuses and deferrals of jury duty. The purpose of matching up
20 such information would be to identify those persons summoned for
21 jury service who indicate non-citizenship as the basis for being
22 excused and remove them from the voter database as ineligible
23 registrants in accordance with applicable law.

24 The agreement would apply retroactively to all available juror
25 records maintained since the 1994 "motor-voter" enactment
26 permitting a person to register to vote while applying for a motor
27 vehicle driver's license. See sections 23 and 24 of P.L.1994, c.182
28 (C.39:3-10m and 39:2-3.2).