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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION

**HOUSE FILE No. 1053**

February 23, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Operations Reform,  
Technology and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to elections; requiring certain public officials to provide additional data  
1.3 to the secretary of state for use in maintaining the voter registration system;  
1.4 providing for automatic voter registration of applicants for a driver's license,  
1.5 instruction permit, or identification card; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008,  
1.6 sections 201.13, by adding a subdivision; 201.14; 201.15, subdivisions 1, 2;  
1.7 201.155; 201.161; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter  
1.8 201.

1.9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.10 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.13, is amended by adding a  
1.11 subdivision to read:

1.12 Subd. 1a. **Social Security Administration; reports of deceased residents.**

1.13 The secretary of state may determine if any of the persons listed on the Social Security  
1.14 Death Index are registered to vote and prepare a list of those registrants for each county  
1.15 auditor. The county auditor shall change the status of those registrants to "deceased"  
1.16 in the statewide voter registration system.

1.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.14, is amended to read:

1.18 **201.14 COURT ADMINISTRATOR OF DISTRICT COURT; REPORT**  
1.19 **CHANGES OF NAMES.**

1.20 The state court administrator ~~of district court in each county~~ shall regularly report  
1.21 ~~monthly~~ by electronic means to the ~~county auditor~~ secretary of state the name ~~and,~~  
1.22 address, driver's license or state identification card number, and the last four digits of the  
1.23 individual's Social Security number, if available, of each individual, 18 years of age or  
1.24 over, ~~who maintains residence in that county and~~ whose name was changed during the  
1.25 month preceding the date of the report, by marriage, divorce or any order or decree of

2.1 the court. The secretary of state shall determine if any of the persons in the report are  
 2.2 registered to vote under their previous name and shall prepare a list of those registrants for  
 2.3 each county auditor. Upon receipt of the ~~report list~~, the county auditor shall ~~notify by mail~~  
 2.4 ~~each registered voter whose name was changed that it will be necessary to reregister under~~  
 2.5 ~~the changed name in order to vote~~ make the change in the voter's record and mail to the  
 2.6 voter the notice of registration required by section 201.121, subdivision 2.

2.7 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.15, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.8 Subdivision 1. **Guardianships and incompetents.** Pursuant to the Help America  
 2.9 Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, the state court administrator shall report monthly  
 2.10 by electronic means to the secretary of state the name, address, ~~and~~ date of birth, driver's  
 2.11 license or state identification card number, and the last four digits of the individual's Social  
 2.12 Security number, if available, of each individual 18 years of age or over, who during  
 2.13 the month preceding the date of the report:

2.14 ~~(a)~~ (1) was placed under a guardianship in which the court order revokes the ward's  
 2.15 right to vote; or

2.16 ~~(b)~~ (2) was adjudged legally incompetent.

2.17 The court administrator shall also report the same information for each individual  
 2.18 transferred to the jurisdiction of the court who meets a condition specified in clause ~~(a)~~  
 2.19 (1) or ~~(b)~~ (2). The secretary of state shall determine if any of the persons in the report is  
 2.20 registered to vote and shall prepare a list of those registrants for the county auditor. The  
 2.21 county auditor shall change the status on the record in the statewide registration system  
 2.22 of any individual named in the report to indicate that the individual is not eligible to  
 2.23 reregister or vote.

2.24 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.15, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.25 Subd. 2. **Guardianship termination or modification.** Pursuant to the Help  
 2.26 America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, the state court administrator shall report  
 2.27 monthly by electronic means to the secretary of state the name, address, ~~and~~ date of  
 2.28 birth, driver's license or state identification card number, and the last four digits of the  
 2.29 individual's Social Security number, if available, of each individual whose guardianship  
 2.30 was modified to restore the ward's right to vote or whose guardianship was terminated  
 2.31 by order of the court under section 524.5-317 after being ineligible to vote for any of the  
 2.32 reasons specified in subdivision 1. The secretary of state shall determine if any of the  
 2.33 persons in the report is registered to vote and shall prepare a list of those registrants for

3.1 the county auditor. The county auditor shall change the status on the voter's record in the  
 3.2 statewide registration system to "active."

3.3 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.155, is amended to read:

3.4 **201.155 REPORT ON FELONY CONVICTIONS.**

3.5 Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, the state court  
 3.6 administrator shall report monthly by electronic means to the secretary of state the name,  
 3.7 address, date of birth, driver's license or state identification card number, the last four  
 3.8 digits of the individual's Social Security number, if available, date of sentence, effective  
 3.9 date of the sentence, and county in which the conviction occurred of each person who  
 3.10 has been convicted of a felony. The state court administrator shall also report the name,  
 3.11 address, and date of birth of each person previously convicted of a felony whose civil  
 3.12 rights have been restored. The secretary of state shall determine if any of the persons in  
 3.13 the report is registered to vote and shall prepare a list of those registrants for each county  
 3.14 auditor. The county auditor shall change the status of those registrants in the appropriate  
 3.15 manner in the statewide registration system.

3.16 Sec. 6. **[201.156] REPORT ON CIVIL RIGHTS REINSTATEMENT.**

3.17 As required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, the  
 3.18 commissioner of corrections shall report monthly by electronic means to the secretary of  
 3.19 state the name, address, date of birth, driver's license or state identification card number,  
 3.20 and the last four digits of the individual's Social Security number, if available, of each  
 3.21 person previously convicted of a felony who was under the commissioner's jurisdiction  
 3.22 whose civil rights have been restored. The secretary of state shall determine if any of the  
 3.23 persons in the report are registered to vote and shall prepare a list of those registrants for  
 3.24 each county auditor. The county auditor shall review the list and update the address,  
 3.25 as necessary, and remove the felony conviction status attached to the registrant in the  
 3.26 statewide registration system.

3.27 Sec. 7. **[201.157] USE OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DATA.**

3.28 As required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, the  
 3.29 commissioner of corrections shall make electronic data on individuals currently serving  
 3.30 felony sentences under the commissioner's jurisdiction available to the secretary of state.  
 3.31 At least monthly, the secretary of state must determine:

4.1 (1) if any individual with an active voter registration in the statewide registration  
 4.2 system is currently serving a felony sentence and if the individual's civil rights have  
 4.3 been revoked; and

4.4 (2) if any individual with a voter record that has a challenged status due to a felony  
 4.5 conviction has completed their sentence and if the individual's civil rights have been  
 4.6 restored.

4.7 The secretary of state shall prepare a list of the registrants included under clause (1) or  
 4.8 (2) for each county auditor. The county auditor shall change the status of registrants  
 4.9 included in the list in the statewide registration system to reflect the determination made  
 4.10 by the secretary of state.

4.11 **Sec. 8. [201.158] USE OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DATA.**

4.12 As required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, the  
 4.13 commissioner of public safety shall make electronic data on citizenship available to the  
 4.14 secretary of state. At least monthly, the secretary of state must determine whether the data  
 4.15 indicate that any individuals who have active records in the statewide voter registration  
 4.16 system are not citizens. The secretary of state shall prepare an electronic list of those  
 4.17 voters for each county auditor. The county auditor shall change the status of those  
 4.18 registrants in the statewide registration system to reflect that they are challenged based  
 4.19 upon their citizenship and must notify the county attorney.

4.20 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.161, is amended to read:

4.21 **201.161 AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE,**  
 4.22 **INSTRUCTION PERMIT, AND IDENTIFICATION CARD APPLICATIONS**  
 4.23 **APPLICANTS.**

4.24 Subdivision 1. **Automatic registration.** An individual who properly completes  
 4.25 an application for a new or renewed Minnesota driver's license, instruction permit, or  
 4.26 identification card, and who is eligible to vote under section 201.014, must be registered to  
 4.27 vote as provided in this section, unless the applicant declines to be registered.

4.28 Subd. 2. **Applications.** The ~~Department~~ commissioner of public safety, in  
 4.29 consultation with the secretary of state, shall change ~~its~~ the applications for an original,  
 4.30 duplicate, or change of address driver's license, instruction permit, or identification card so  
 4.31 that the forms may also serve as voter registration applications. The forms must contain  
 4.32 spaces for all information collected by voter registration applications prescribed by the  
 4.33 secretary of state and a box for the applicant to decline to be registered to vote. ~~Applicants~~  
 4.34 ~~for driver's licenses or identification cards must be asked if they want to register to vote~~

5.1 ~~at the same time and that~~ Unless the applicant has declined to be registered to vote, the  
 5.2 commissioner shall transmit the information ~~must be transmitted at least weekly~~ daily by  
 5.3 electronic means to the secretary of state. Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002,  
 5.4 Public Law 107-252, the computerized driver's license record containing the voter's name,  
 5.5 address, date of birth, citizenship, driver's license number or state identification number,  
 5.6 county, ~~town, and~~ city or town, and signature must be made available for access by the  
 5.7 secretary of state and interaction with the statewide voter registration system.

5.8 Subd. 3. **Registration.** (a) The secretary of state shall determine whether the  
 5.9 applicant is currently registered in the statewide voter registration system. For each  
 5.10 currently registered voter whose registration is not changed, the secretary of state shall  
 5.11 update the voter's registration date in the statewide voter registration system. For each  
 5.12 currently registered voter whose registration is changed, the secretary of state shall  
 5.13 transmit the registration daily by electronic means to the county auditor of the county  
 5.14 where the voter resides.

5.15 (b) If the applicant is not currently registered in the statewide voter registration  
 5.16 system, the secretary of state shall determine whether the applicant is 18 years of age or  
 5.17 older and a citizen of the United States and compare the voter registration information  
 5.18 received from the commissioner of public safety with the information on wards,  
 5.19 incompetents, and felons received from the state court administrator under sections 201.15  
 5.20 and 201.155 to determine whether the applicant is eligible to vote. If an applicant is  
 5.21 less than 18 years of age, the secretary of state shall wait until the applicant has turned  
 5.22 18 years of age to determine whether the applicant is eligible to vote. For each applicant  
 5.23 the secretary of state determines is an eligible voter, the secretary of state shall transmit  
 5.24 the registration daily by electronic means to the county auditor of the county where the  
 5.25 voter resides.

5.26 Subd. 4. **Notice.** Upon receipt of the registration, the county auditor shall mail to  
 5.27 the voter the notice of registration required by section 201.121, subdivision 2.

5.28 Subd. 5. **Effective date.** An application for registration that is dated during the 20  
 5.29 days before an election in any jurisdiction within which the voter resides is not effective  
 5.30 until the day after the election.

5.31 **Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5.32 Subdivision 1. **Generally.** Sections 1 to 8 are effective the day following  
 5.33 certification by the secretary of state that the statewide voter registration system has been  
 5.34 tested and is capable of performing the functions required under sections 1 to 8. Section 9  
 5.35 is effective August 1, 2009, except as provided in this section.

6.1            Subd. 2. **Automatic registration.** An applicant for a Minnesota driver's license,  
6.2 instruction permit, or identification card must not be registered to vote under section 9  
6.3 until the secretary of state has certified that the system for automatic registration of those  
6.4 applicants has been tested and is capable of properly determining whether an applicant  
6.5 is eligible to vote.