WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 3 ARTICLE 2

WV Legislature

§3-2-1. Permanent voter registration law; uniform system of voter registration.

(a) This article, providing a permanent and uniform system for the registration of the voters of the State of West Virginia, may be cited as the "Permanent Voter Registration Law."

(b) A permanent voter registration system is hereby established which shall be uniform in its requirements throughout the state and all of its subdivisions. No voter so registered shall be required to register again for any election while continuing to reside within the same county, unless the voter's registration is canceled as provided in this article.

(c) A person who is not eligible or not duly registered to vote shall not be permitted to vote at any election in any subdivision of the state, except that such a voter may cast a "provisional" or "challenged" ballot as provided in this chapter if the voter's eligibility or registration is in question, and such "provisional" or "challenged" ballot may be counted only if a positive determination of the voter's eligibility and proper registration can be ascertained.

WV Legislature

§3-2-2. Eligibility to register to vote.

(a) Any person who possesses the constitutional qualifications for voting may register to vote. To be qualified, a person must be a citizen of the United States and a legal resident of West Virginia and of the county where he or she is applying to register, shall be at least eighteen years of age, except that a person who is at least seventeen years of age and who will be eighteen years of age by the time of the next ensuing general election may also be permitted to register, and shall not be otherwise legally disqualified: Provided, That a registered voter who has not reached eighteen years of age may vote both partisan and nonpartisan ballots in a federal, state, county, municipal or special primary election if he or she will be eighteen years of age by the time of the corresponding general election.

(b) Any person who has been convicted of a felony, treason or bribery in an election, under either state or federal law, is disqualified and is not eligible to register or to continue to be registered to vote while serving his or her sentence, including any period of incarceration, probation or parole related thereto. Any person who has been declared mentally incompetent by a court of competent jurisdiction is disqualified and shall not be eligible to register or to continue to be registered to vote for as long as that disability continues.

WV Legislature

§3-2-3. State authority relating to voter registration; chief election official.

(a) The Secretary of State, as chief election official of the state as provided in section six, article one-a of this chapter, shall have general supervision of the voter registration procedures and practices and the maintenance of voter registration records in the state and shall have authority to require reports and investigate violations to ensure the proper conduct of voter registration throughout the state and all of its subdivisions. Upon written notice to the clerk of the county commission of a county of the need for voter registration record maintenance and the failure of that clerk to complete such maintenance within ninety days of the notice, the Secretary of State may make changes in the voter registration data necessary to comply with list maintenance requirements of sections four-a, twenty-three, twenty-five, twenty-six and twenty-seven of this article: Provided, That the secretary shall send the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(b) The Secretary of State, as chief election official of the state, is responsible for implementing, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner, a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained and administered at the state level that contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the state and assigns a unique identifier to each legally registered voter in the state.

(c) The Secretary of State is hereby designated as the chief election official responsible for the coordination of this state's responsibilities under 42 U.S.C. §1973gg, et seq., the "National Voter Registration Act of 1993". The Secretary of State shall have general supervision of voter registration procedures and practices at agencies and locations providing services as required by the provisions of this article and shall have the authority to propose procedural, interpretive and legislative rules for promulgation in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code for application for registration, transmission of applications, reporting and maintenance of records required by the provisions of this article and for the development, implementation and application of other provisions of this article.

WV Legislature

§3-2-4. Authority and responsibility of the clerk of the county commission and of the county commission relating to voter registration.

(a) Subject to the authority of the Secretary of State, the clerk of the county commission shall be the chief registration authority in each respective county and all subdivisions therein, and shall supervise their deputies, employees, and registrars in the performance of their respective duties.

(b) The county commission of each county shall allocate sufficient resources for the proper and efficient performance of duties relating to voter registration as required by law, and shall provide for temporary clerical assistance necessary for systematic purging procedures or other duties of short duration required by the provisions of this article.

(c) The county commission shall have authority on its own motion to summon and examine any person concerning the registration of voters, to investigate any irregularities in registration, to summon and examine witnesses, to require the production of any relevant books and papers, and to conduct hearings on any matters relating to the registration of voters.

(d) The clerk of the county commission shall be responsible for the administration of voter registration within the county and shall establish procedures and practices which ensure the full implementation of the requirements of federal and state laws and rules relating to voter registration, and which ensure nondiscriminatory practices. The clerk of the county commission, at his or her discretion, may maintain and store all voter registration records in a digital format: *Provided,* That prior to destroying any physical voter registration records, the clerk of the county commission shall follow the records destruction process and digital copy creation requirements set forth in W.Va. Code § 3-2-29.

WV Legislature

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) The provisions of subdivision (6), subsection (a) of this section notwithstanding, the Secretary of State or any clerk of a county commission shall perform maintenance with respect to the statewide voter registration database on a regular basis as follows:

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

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

WV Legislature

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

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

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

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

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

(d) The Secretary of State and the clerks of all county commissions shall provide adequate technological security measures to prevent the unauthorized access to the statewide voter registration database established under this section.

(e) The Secretary of State shall ensure, and may perform such maintenance necessary to ensure, that voter registration records in the state are accurate and updated regularly, including the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

WV Legislature

applicant's driver's license number;

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

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

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

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

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

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

WV Legislature

§3-2-5. Forms for application for registration; information required and requested; types of application forms; notices.

(a)(1) All state forms for application for voter registration shall be prescribed by the Secretary of State and shall conform with the requirements of 42 U.S.C. §1973gg, *et seq.*, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the requirements of the provisions of this article. Separate application forms may be prescribed for voter registration conducted by the clerk of the county commission, registration by mail, registration in conjunction with an application for motor vehicle driver's license and registration at designated agencies. These forms may consist of one or more parts, may be combined with other forms for use in registration by designated agencies or in conjunction with driver licensing and may be revised and reissued as required by the Secretary of State to provide for the efficient administration of voter registration.

(2) Notwithstanding any provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection to the contrary, the federal postcard application for voter registration issued pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1973, *et seq.*, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986 and the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Federal Election Commission pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1973gg, *et seq.*, and the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, are accepted as valid forms of application for registration pursuant to the provisions of this article.

(3) The Secretary of State is authorized to promulgate procedures to permit persons to register to vote through a secure electronic voter registration system.

(b) Each application form for registration shall include:

(1) A statement specifying the eligibility requirements for registration and an attestation that the applicant meets each eligibility requirement;

(2) Any specific notice or notices required for a specific type or use of application by 42 U.S.C. §1973gg, *et seq.*, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993;

(3) A notice that a voter may be permitted to vote the partisan primary election ballot of a political party only if the voter has designated that political party on the application for registration unless the political party has determined otherwise;

(4) The applicant's driver's license number or an identification number issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles. If the applicant does not have a driver's license or an identification card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles, then the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number; and

(5) Any other instructions or information essential to complete the application process.

(c) Each application form shall require that the following be provided by the applicant, under oath, and an application which does not contain each of the following is incomplete:

WV Legislature

(1) The applicant's legal name, including the first name, middle or premarital name, if any, and last name;

(2) The month, day, and year of the applicant's birth;

(3) The applicant's residence address including the number and street or route and city and county of residence except:

(A) In the case of a person eligible to register under the provisions of 42 U.S.C.§1973ff, *et seq.*, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the address at which he or she last resided before leaving the United States or entering the uniformed services, or if a dependent child of such a person, the address at which his or her parent last resided;

(B) In the case of a homeless person having no fixed residence address who nevertheless resides and remains regularly within the county, the address of a shelter, assistance center or family member with whom he or she has regular contact or other specific location approved by the clerk of the county commission for the purposes of establishing a voting residence; or

(C) In the case of a participant in the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State in accordance with section one hundred three, article twenty-eight (a), chapter forty-eight of this code, the designated address assigned to the participant by the Secretary of State; and

(4) The applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury as provided in section thirty-six of this article, to the attestation of eligibility to register to vote and to the truth of the information given. The clerk may accept the electronically transmitted signature kept on file with another approved state database for an applicant who applies to register to vote using an approved electronic voter registration system in accordance with procedures promulgated by the Secretary of State.

(d) The applicant shall be requested to provide the following information, but no application may be rejected for lack of this information:

(1) An indication whether the application is for a new registration, change of address, change of name or change of party affiliation;

(2) The applicant's choice of political party affiliation, if any, or an indication of no affiliation. An applicant who does not enter a choice of political party affiliation is listed as having no party affiliation on the voting record;

(3) The applicant's residence mailing address if different than the residence street address;

(4) The last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number;

(5) The applicant's telephone number;

WV Legislature

(6) The applicant's e-mail address;

(7) The address where the applicant was last registered to vote, if any, for the purpose of cancelling or transferring the previous registration;

(8) The applicant's gender; and

(9) A statement as to whether the applicant requests to register as an organ donor and be included in the National Donate Life Registry.

(e) The Secretary of State shall prescribe the printing specifications of each type of voter registration application and the voter registration application portion of any form which is part of a combined agency form: *Provided*, That any physical voter registration records created under this article may be destroyed under the process described in §3-2-29 of this code.

(f) Application forms prescribed in this section may refer to various public officials by title or official position but in no case may the actual name of an officeholder be printed on the voter registration application or on any portion of a combined application form.

(g) No later than July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Secretary of State shall submit the specifications of the voter registration application by mail for statewide bidding for a contract period beginning September 1 of each odd-numbered year and continuing for two calendar years. The successful bidder shall produce and supply the required mail voter registration forms at the contract price to all purchasers of the form for the period of the contract.

(h) The Secretary of State shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement the provisions of this article, including, but not limited to, the collection of the minimum personal information to be collected and transferred to a national organ donor registry, as provided in §3-2-5(d)(9) of this code.

WV Legislature

§3-2-6. Time of registration application before an election.

(a) Voter registration before an election closes on the 21st day before the election or on the first day thereafter which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday at

(1) 11:59 p.m. for online registration; or

(2) At the close of business at county clerk's offices and the Secretary of State's office.

(b) An application for voter registration, transfer of registration, change of name, or change of political party affiliation submitted by an eligible voter by the close of voter registration is effective for any subsequent primary, general, or special election if the following conditions are met:

(1) The application contains the information required by §3-2-5(c) of this code. Incomplete applications for registration containing information which are submitted within the required time may be corrected within four business days after the close of registration if the applicant provides the required information; and

(2) The application is received by the appropriate clerk of the county commission no later than the hour of the close of registration or is otherwise submitted by the following deadlines:

(A) If mailed, the application shall be addressed to the appropriate clerk of the county commission and is postmarked by the postal service no later than the date of the close of registration. If the postmark is missing or illegible, the application is presumed to have been mailed no later than the close of registration if it is received by the appropriate clerk of the county commission no later than the third day following the close of registration;

(B) If accepted by a designated agency or motor vehicle licensing office, the application is received by that agency or office no later than the close of registration;

(C) If accepted through a registration outreach program, the application is received by the clerk, deputy clerk, or registrar no later than the close of registration;

(D) If accepted through an approved electronic voter registration system, the application is received by the clerk of the county commission or other entity designated by the Secretary of State no later than 11:59 p.m. on the final day of registration; and

(3) The verification notice required by the provisions of §3-2-16 of this code mailed to the voter at the residence indicated on the application is not returned as undeliverable.

WV Legislature

§3-2-6a. Extended time for certain persons to register in person.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of section six of this article, the following persons are entitled to register to vote, in person, at the office of the clerk of the county commission up to, but not including, the day of the election:

(1) Any member of a uniformed service of the United States, as defined in 42 U. S. C. § 1973ff-6 (7), who is on active duty;

(2) Any member of a uniformed service of the United States, as defined in 42 U. S. C. § 1973ff-6 (7), who is discharged from active duty during the sixty days immediately preceding the election;

(3) Any member of the Merchant Marine of the United States;

(4) Any person residing outside the country by virtue of his or her employment in support of national security functions or purposes and presents appropriate documentation of such employment as prescribed by the Secretary of State; and

(5) Any spouse or dependent residing with a person listed in subdivisions (1), (2), (3) or (4) of this subsection.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) apply only to those persons who are otherwise qualified to register and who, by reason of such active duty or temporary overseas residency:

(1) Are normally absent from the county in which they reside; or

(2) Have been absent from such county and returned to reside there during the twenty-one days immediately preceding the election.

(c) A person qualifying and registering to vote pursuant to this section, after the close of voter registration set forth in section six, article two of this chapter, shall be required to cast a provisional ballot and that provisional ballot shall be counted during the canvass of the election, unless the voter is determined by the Clerk of the County Commission to otherwise fail to meet the eligibility requirements for voter registration.

(d) The Secretary of State shall prescribe procedures for the addition of persons registered under this section to the lists of registered voters.

WV Legislature

§3-2-7. Hours and days of registration in the office of the clerk of the county commission; in-person application for voter registration; identification required.

(a) The clerk of the county commission shall provide voter registration services at all times when the office of the clerk is open for regular business.

(b) An eligible voter who desires to apply for voter registration in person at the office of the clerk of the county commission shall complete a voter registration application on the prescribed form and shall sign the oath required on that application in the presence of the clerk of the county commission or his or her deputy: Provided, That an individual may apply for voter registration using an approved electronic voter registration system if available at the office of the clerk. Such system may electronically transfer the voter's signature stored in the database of another state agency in accordance with procedures promulgated by the Secretary of State. The applicant shall present valid identification and proof of age. The clerk may waive the proof of age requirement if the applicant is clearly over the age of eighteen.

(c) The clerk shall attempt to establish whether the residence address given is within the boundaries of an incorporated municipality and, if so, make the proper entry required for municipal residents to be properly identified for municipal voter registration purposes.

(d) Upon receipt of the completed registration application, the clerk shall either:

(1) Provide a notice of procedure for verification and notice of disposition of the application and immediately begin the verification process prescribed by the provisions of section sixteen of this article; or

(2) Upon presentation of a current driver's license or state-issued identification card containing the residence address as it appears on the voter registration application, issue the receipt of registration.

WVLegislature

§3-2-8. Registration outreach services by the clerk of the county commission; challenge of voter's registration.

(a) Registration outreach services, including application for registration, change of address, name or party affiliation and correction or cancellation of registration, may be provided at locations outside the office of said clerk of the county commission by the clerk, one or more of his or her deputy clerks, or by temporary registrars or volunteer registrars appointed in accordance with the provisions of section nine of this article.

(b) (1) The clerk of the county commission may establish temporary registration offices to provide voter registration services to residents of the county. The clerk shall file a list of the scheduled times and locations of any temporary registration offices with the county commission at least fourteen days prior to opening the temporary office and shall solicit public service advertising of the location and times for any temporary registration office on radio, television and newspapers serving that county.

(2) The clerk of the county commission shall establish an approved program of voter registration services for eligible high school students at each high school within the county and shall conduct that program of voter registration at an appropriate time during each school year, but no later than forty-five days before a statewide primary election held during a school year. The Secretary of State shall issue guidelines for approval of programs of voter registration for eligible students, and all such programs shall include opportunities for students to register in person and present identification at the high school where the student is enrolled. Official school records shall be accepted as identification and proof of age for eligible students.

(c) When the boundaries of precincts are altered requiring the transfer of a portion of the voters of one precinct to another precinct, the clerk of the county commission or temporary registrars appointed for the purpose may conduct door-to-door registration services in the areas affected by the boundary changes and may register, alter or transfer the registration of voters found to reside in those areas. Upon a determination that a voter who previously registered in the area canvassed no longer resides at that address, except for those persons who are qualified to maintain a legal residence at the address, the clerk of the county commission shall challenge the registration of the voter in accordance with the provisions of section twenty-eight of this article.

(d) The procedures required upon receipt of an application for registration as prescribed in subsection (b), section seven of this article shall also be performed by the authorized persons conducting the registration outreach services.

WV Legislature

§3-2-9. Appointment of temporary and volunteer registrars for registration outreach services.

(a) Temporary registrars and volunteer registrars may be appointed to perform registration outreach services as provided in section eight of this article. Whenever registration outreach services are conducted by temporary registrars or volunteer registrars, two persons of opposite political parties shall serve together. All temporary registrars and volunteer registrars shall be trained by the clerk of the county commission before beginning their duties and shall thereafter be supervised by said clerk.

(b) Temporary registrars and volunteer registrars shall have the same eligibility qualifications as required of election officials and shall be subject to suspension by the same procedures as prescribed for election officials as provided in section twenty-eight, article one of this chapter. Eligibility may be suspended for the following reasons:

(1) Failure to appear at the required time and place or to perform the duties of a registrar as required by law;

(2) Alteration or destruction of a voter registration application;

(3) Improper influence of the choice of party affiliation of a voter, or other improper interference or intimidation relating to the voter's decision to register or not to register to vote; or

(4) Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or having anything wagered or bet on an election.

(c) Each temporary or volunteer registrar, before beginning the duties of the office, shall take an oath to perform the duties of the office according to law and the oath shall be filed with the clerk of the county commission.

(d) (1) The county commission may appoint temporary registrars to conduct registration as provided in section eight of this article. An equal number of such registrars shall be selected from the two major political parties. The county commission shall notify each county executive committee, in writing, specifying the number of registrars to be appointed, the general schedule of registration activities to be performed, and the date by which the nominations must be received, which date shall be not less than twenty-eight days following the date of the notice. Each executive committee, by majority vote of the committee, may nominate the number of persons needed to serve as registrars and shall submit the nominations in writing to the county commission by the date specified in the notice. The clerk of the county commission shall notify those persons so nominated and appointed. If any person declines to serve or fails to appear, the clerk of the county commission shall fill the vacancy with a qualified person of the same political party.

(2) Temporary registrars shall be compensated at a rate not less than the federal minimum

WV Legislature

wage and may be reimbursed for mileage traveled between the county courthouse and any temporary registration site.

(e) The clerk of the county commission may appoint volunteer registrars to conduct registration outreach services as provided in section eight of this article. Volunteer registrars shall serve without compensation. At least fourteen days before beginning any registration outreach service to be conducted by volunteer registrars, the clerk shall notify the county commission in writing listing the proposed schedule for all registration outreach activities and the name and party affiliation of each volunteer registrar appointed.

WV Legislature

§3-2-10. Application for registration by mail.

(a) Any qualified person may apply to register, change, transfer or correct his or her voter registration by mail. Application shall be made on a prescribed form as provided by section five of this article.

(b) To the extent possible, with funds allocated annually for such purpose, the Secretary of State shall make state mail registration forms available for distribution through governmental and private entities and organized voter registration programs. The Secretary of State shall make a record of all requests by entities or organizations for two hundred or more forms with a description of the dates and locations in which the proposed registration drive is to be conducted. The Secretary of State shall also require the entity or organization requesting the forms to provide contact information on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State may limit the distribution to a reasonable amount per group.

(c) The clerk of the county commission shall provide up to four mail registration forms to any resident of the county upon request. To the extent possible with funds allocated annually for the purpose, the clerk of the county commission shall make state mail registration forms available for distribution through organized voter registration programs within the county. The clerk of the county commission shall make a record of all requests by entities or organizations for ten or more forms with a description of the dates and locations in which the proposed registration drive is to be conducted. The clerk may limit the distribution to a reasonable amount per group.

(d) The applicant shall provide all required information and, only after completing the information, sign the prescribed applicant's oath under penalty of perjury as provided in section thirty-six of this article. No person may alter or add any entry or make any mark which would alter any material information on the voter registration application after the applicant has signed the oath: Provided, That the clerk of the county commission may correct any entry upon the request of the applicant provided the request is properly documented and the correction is dated and initialed by the clerk.

(e) Completed applications shall be mailed or delivered to the clerk of the county commission of the county in which the voter resides. If a clerk receives a completed mail application form from a voter whose residence address is located in another county, the clerk shall forward that application within three days to the clerk of the county commission of the county of the applicant's residence.

(f) Upon receipt of the application for registration by the appropriate clerk of the county commission, the clerk shall:

(1) Attempt to establish whether the residence address given is within the boundaries of an incorporated municipality and, if so, make the proper entry required for municipal residents to be properly identified for municipal voter registration purposes; and

WV Legislature

(2) Immediately begin the verification process required by the provisions of section sixteen of this article.

(g) Any person who registers by mail pursuant to this section and who has not previously voted in an election in the state shall be required to present the following forms of identification to the Secretary of State or clerk of the county commission:

(1) In the case of an individual who votes in person, a current and valid photo identification; or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter;

(2) In the case of an individual who votes by mail, a copy of a current and valid photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter, submitted with the ballot.

(h) An individual who desires to vote in person or by mail, but who does not meet the requirements of subsection (g) of this section, may cast a provisional ballot.

(i) Subsection (g) of this section does not apply in the case of a person:

(1) Who registers to vote by mail under 42 U.S.C. §1973gg–4, et seq., and submits as part of his or her registration either a copy of a current and valid photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government document that shows the name and address of the voter;

(2) (A) Who registers to vote by mail under 42 U.S.C. §1973gg-4, et seq., and submits with his or her registration either a driver's license number or at least the last four digits of the individual's social security number; and (B) with respect to whom the Secretary of State or clerk of the county commission matches the information submitted under paragraph (A) of this subdivision with an existing state identification record bearing the same number, name and date of birth as provided in the registration; or

(3) Who is: (A) Entitled to vote by absentee ballot under 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-1, et seq., the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; (B) provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under 42 U.S.C. §1973ee-1(b)(2)(B)(ii); or 25 (iii), section 3(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act; (C) entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other federal law: Provided, That any person who has applied for an absentee ballot pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (1), subsection (b), section one, article three of this chapter; paragraph (B), subdivision (2) of said subsection; subdivision (3) of said subsection; or subsection (c) of said section may not have his or her ballot in that election challenged for failure to appear in person or for failure to present identification.

(j) Any person who submits a state mail voter registration application to the clerk of the

WV Legislature

county commission in the county in which he or she is currently registered for the purpose of entering a change of address within the county, making a change of party affiliation or recording a change of legal name shall not be required to make his or her first vote in person or to present identification or proof of age.

(k) On and after July 1, 2006, any person who agrees to mail or to deliver a signed voter registration application to the Secretary of State or the clerk of the county commission and who intentionally interferes with the applicant's effort to register either by destroying the application or by failing to mail or to deliver the application in a timely manner is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $1,000, or confined in a jail for not more than one year, or both. For purposes of this subsection, the mailing or delivery of an application is timely if it is mailed or delivered within fifteen days after the applicant signs the application or in accordance with the provisions of article two, chapter three of this code for processing before the closing of the registration records for the pending election, whichever comes first.

(l) On or after July 1, 2006, any person who intentionally solicits multiple registrations from any one person or who intentionally falsifies a registration application is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $1,000, or confined in jail for not more than one year, or both.

WV Legislature

§3-2-11. Registration in conjunction with driver licensing.

(a) The Division of Motor Vehicles or other division or department that may be established by law to perform motor vehicle driver licensing services, shall, except with respect to foreign driver's licenses recognized pursuant to reciprocal agreements under §17A-2-10b of this code, obtain as an integral and simultaneous part of every process of application for the issuance, renewal, or change of address of a motor vehicle driver's license, or official identification card pursuant to §17B-2-1 *et seq*. of this code, when the division's regional offices are open for regular business, the following information from each qualified registrant:

(1) Full name, including first, middle, last, and any premarital names;

(2) Date of birth;

(3) Residence address and mailing address, if different;

(4) The applicant's electronic signature and photograph;

(5) Telephone number, if available;

(6) Email address, if available;

(7) Political party membership, if any;

(8) Driver's license number and last four digits of Social Security number;

(9) A notation that the applicant has attested that he or she meets all voter eligibility requirements;

(10) United States citizenship status;

(11) Whether the applicant affirmatively declined to become registered to vote during the transaction with the Division of Motor Vehicles;

(12) Date of application; and

(13) Any other information specified in rules adopted to implement this section.

(b) Unless the applicant affirmatively declines to become registered to vote or update his or her voter registration during the transaction with the Division of Motor Vehicles, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall release all of the information obtained pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the Secretary of State, who shall forward the information to the county clerk for the relevant county to process the newly registered voter or updated information for the already-registered voter pursuant to law. The Division of Motor Vehicles shall notify the applicant that by submitting his or her signature, the applicant grants

WV Legislature

written consent for the submission of the information obtained and required to be submitted to the Secretary of State pursuant to this section.

(c) As soon as practicable, but no later than 90 days following the effective date of amendments made during the 2024 regular legislative session, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall create a regular process, including, but not limited to, the requirements of §3-2-11(p) of this code, that ensures the Secretary of State can fulfill his or her duties as provided by §3-2-3 of this code to confirm that any applicant to register to vote in West Virginia through the Division of Motor Vehicles is in fact a U.S. citizen eligible to vote in West Virginia and to ensure that persons who are noncitizens of the United States have not and cannot register to vote in West Virginia.

(d) Information regarding a person's failure to sign the voter registration application is confidential and may not be used for any purpose other than to determine voter registration.

(e) A qualified voter who submits the required information or update to his or her voter registration, pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, in person at a driver licensing facility at the time of applying for, obtaining, renewing, or transferring his or her driver's license or official identification card, and who presents identification and proof of age at that time, is not required to make his or her first vote in person or to again present identification in order to make that registration valid.

(f) A qualified voter, who submits, by mail or by delivery by a third party, an application for registration on the form used in conjunction with driver licensing, is required to make his or her first vote in person and present identification as required for other mail registration in accordance with §3-2-10(g) of this code. If the applicant has been previously registered in the jurisdiction and the application is for a change of address, change of name, change of political party affiliation, or other correction, the presentation of identification and first vote in person is not required.

(g) An application for voter registration submitted pursuant to the provisions of this section updates a previous voter registration by the applicant and authorizes the cancellation of registration in any other county or state in which the applicant was previously registered.

(h) A change of address from one residence to another within the same county which is submitted for driver licensing or nonoperator's identification purposes in accordance with applicable law, serves as a notice of change of address for voter registration purposes if requested by the applicant after notice and written consent of the applicant.

(i) Completed applications for voter registration or change of address for voting purposes received by an office providing driver licensing services shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State within five days of receipt unless other means are available for a more expedited transmission. The Secretary of State shall remove and file any forms which have not been signed by the applicant and shall forward completed, signed applications to the clerk of the appropriate county commission within five days of receipt.

WV Legislature

(j) Voter registration application forms containing voter information which are returned to a driver licensing office unsigned shall be collected by the Division of Motor Vehicles, submitted to the Secretary of State, and maintained by the Secretary of State's office according to the retention policy adopted by the Secretary of State.

(k) The Secretary of State shall establish procedures to protect the confidentiality of the information obtained from the Division of Motor Vehicles, including any information otherwise required to be confidential by other provisions of this code.

(l) A person registered to vote pursuant to this section may cancel his or her voter registration at any time by any method available to any other registered voter.

(m) This section does not require the Division of Motor Vehicles to determine eligibility for voter registration and voting.

(n) Except for the changes made to subsection (b) of this section during the 2017 regular legislative session, the changes made to this section during the 2016 regular legislative session become effective on July 1, 2021, and any costs associated therewith shall be paid by the Division of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, and the Secretary of State shall each appear before the Joint Committee on Government and Finance and the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, during the first interim meetings of such committees occurring after September 1, 2019, to present written reports containing a full and complete list of any infrastructure each agency requires to achieve the purposes of this section. Along with the report required by this subsection, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall submit a written schedule to both committees outlining how the division will implement the requirements of this section by July 1, 2021.

(o) The Secretary of State shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement the requirements of this section.

(p) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code to the contrary, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall expeditiously and comprehensively release and forward all information obtained pursuant to subsection (a) of this section purporting to document an applicant's status as a U.S. citizen to the Secretary of State of any applicant attempting to register to vote in West Virginia. This information shall be used for the express purpose of expediting the Secretary of State's fulfillment of his or her duties pursuant to §3-2-11(c) and §3-2-3 of this code requiring the Secretary of State to confirm that persons who are noncitizens of the United States have not and cannot register to vote in the state of West Virginia.

(q) The amendments to this section enacted by the Legislature in the 2024 regular session are effective January 1, 2025.

WV Legislature

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

[Repealed].

WV Legislature

§3-2-13. Agencies to provide voter registration services; designation of responsible employees; forms; prohibitions; confidentiality.

(a) For the purposes of this article, "agency" means a department, division or office of state or local government, or a program supported by state funds, which is designated under this section to provide voter registration services, but does not include departments, divisions or offices required by other sections of this article to provide voter registration services.

(b) The following agencies shall provide voter registration services pursuant to the provisions of this article:

(1) Those state agencies which administer or provide services under the food stamp program, the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program and the Medicaid program;

(2) Those state-funded agencies primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities;

(3) County marriage license offices;

(4) Armed services recruitment offices, as required by federal law; and

(5) The Department of Revenue, if it provides a check box on any form provided to the general public authorizing the Department of Revenue to request a voter registration application by mail from the Secretary of State on behalf of the applicant.

(c) No later than October 1, 1994, the Secretary of State shall, in conjunction with a designated representative of each of the appropriate state agencies, review those programs and offices established and operating with state funds which administer or provide public assistance or services to persons with disabilities and shall promulgate an emergency rule pursuant to the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of this code designating the specific programs and offices required to provide voter registration services in order to comply with the requirements of this section and the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. §1973gg, et seq.). The offices and programs so designated shall begin providing voter registration services on January 1, 1995.

(d) In each even-numbered year, the Secretary of State shall, in conjunction with the designated representatives of the appropriate state agencies, perform the review as required by the provisions of subsection (c) of this section. The Secretary of State shall periodically review and revise, if necessary, the legislative rule designating the specific agencies required to provide voter registration services.

(e) Each state agency required to provide services pursuant to the provisions of this article shall designate a current employee of that agency to serve as a state supervisor to administer voter registration services required in all programs under the agency's jurisdiction. Each state supervisor is responsible for coordination with the Secretary of

WV Legislature

State, overall operation of the program in conjunction with services within the agency, designation and supervision of local coordinators and for the review of any complaints filed against employees relating to voter registration as provided in this chapter.

(f) The state supervisor shall designate a current employee as a local coordinator for voter registration services for each office or program delivery center who shall be responsible for the proper conduct of voter registration services, timely return of completed voter registration applications, proper handling of declinations and reporting requirements. Notice of the designation of these persons shall be made upon request of the Secretary of State and within five days following any change of designation. Each local coordinator shall receive biannual training provided by the Secretary of State.

(g) The registration application forms used for agency registration shall be issued pursuant to the provisions of section five of this article.

(h) The Secretary of State, in conjunction with those agencies designated to provide voter registration services pursuant to the provisions of this section, shall prescribe the form or portion of the appropriate agency form required by the provisions of 42 U.S.C. §1973gg, et seq., section 7(a)(6)(B) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, containing the required notices and providing boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant would like to register or decline to register to vote. The form or portion of the form is designated the "declination form".

(i) A person who provides voter registration services may not:

(1) Seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party registration;

(2) Display to any applicant any political preference or party allegiance;

(3) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant from registering to vote; or

(4) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action the purpose or effect of which is to lead the applicant to believe that a decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the availability of services or benefits.

(j) No information relating to the identity of a voter registration agency through which any particular voter is registered or to a declination to register to vote in connection with an application made at any designated agency may be used for any purpose other than voter registration.

WV Legislature

§3-2-14. Registration procedures at agencies.

(a) For the purpose of this section, "applicant" means a person who applies in person, whether at an agency office or other site of direct contact with an agency employee responsible for accepting applications, seeking services or assistance for himself or herself or for a member of his or her immediate family.

(b) No later than December 1, 1994, the Secretary of State shall promulgate procedural rules governing the duties and training of agency employees responsible for providing voter registration services, including the distribution, handling, transmittal and retention of voter registration applications and other forms used in conjunction with agency registration, and any reporting necessary to comply with the "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" (42 U.S.C. 1973gg).

(c) Beginning on January 1, 1995, or on July 1, of any subsequent odd-numbered year after which an agency has been designated, each agency designated under the provisions of section thirteen of this article shall:

(1) Distribute with each application for service or assistance, and with each recertification, renewal or change of address form relating to that service or assistance, the declination form prescribed in subsection (h), section thirteen of this article, and a voter registration application issued for the purposes of agency registration pursuant to the provisions of section five of this article;

(2) Provide to each applicant who does not decline to register to vote the same degree of assistance in voter registration as is provided for the completion of the agency's other forms, unless the applicant refuses assistance;

(3) Accept completed voter registration applications and forward those applications to the Secretary of State within five days of receipt;

(4) Accept declination forms and retain or forward those forms in a manner prescribed by procedural rules promulgated by the Secretary of State;

(5) Provide, on the request of an applicant or person assisting an applicant, a reasonable number of mail application forms for use by other eligible persons residing with the applicant; and

(6) Make any reports as may be required.

(d) Any applicant who checks "no" or fails to check "yes" or "no" on the declination form shall be deemed to have declined to register; and any applicant who checks "yes" on the declination form, but fails or refuses to sign the voter registration application or fails to return the voter registration application to an agency or to an appropriate voter registration office shall be deemed to have declined to register.

WV Legislature

(e) Upon receipt of registration forms from an agency, the Secretary of State shall remove and file any forms which have not been signed by the applicant and shall forward completed, signed applications to the clerk of the appropriate county commission within five days of receipt.

(f) Any qualified voter who submits the application for registration pursuant to the provisions of this section in person at an agency or to an agency employee providing services at another location, and who presents identification and proof of age at that time or has previously presented identification and proof of age to the same agency, shall not be required to make his or her first vote in person or to again present identification in order to make that registration valid.

(g) Any qualified voter who submits by mail or by delivery by a third party an application for registration on the form used in conjunction with agency registration shall be required to make his or her first vote in person and to present identification as required for other mail registration in accordance with the provisions of subsection (g), section ten of this article.

(h) Voter registration application forms which are returned to an agency unmarked shall be collected for reuse according to procedures prescribed by the Secretary of State.

WV Legislature

§3-2-15. Special procedures relating to agency registration at marriage license offices.

When a qualified voter appears in person to apply for a marriage license, the applicant shall be presented a voter registration application. If the applicant does not intend to change his or her legal name or residence address upon marriage, the applicant may immediately apply to register or to update a previous registration, in accordance with the procedures prescribed in section fourteen of this article, except that the completed applications shall be forwarded directly to the registration office of the clerk of the county commission if the residence given is within the same county. If the applicant does intend to change his or her legal name or residence address upon marriage, and desires to register to vote, the applicant shall instead be given a mail registration card for use after the change of name or address has occurred.

WV Legislature

§3-2-16. Procedures upon receipt of application for registration by the clerk of the county commission; verification procedure and notice of disposition of application for registration.

(a) Upon receipt of an application for voter registration, the clerk of the county commission shall determine whether the application is complete, whether the applicant appears to be eligible to register to vote within the county and whether the applicant is currently registered within the county. If the application is incomplete or the applicant appears not to be eligible, the clerk shall take the appropriate action as prescribed in section seventeen of this article.

(b) If the application received is complete and appears to be from an eligible person who has not previously been registered within the county, or has not been included within the active voter registration files as defined in section eighteen of this article within the preceding calendar year and does not present a driver's license containing the residence address pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2), subsection (d), section seven of this article, the clerk of the county commission shall conduct the following verification procedure:

(1) The clerk shall issue or mail, by first-class nonforwardable return requested, a verification notice addressed to the applicant at the residence and mailing address given on the application, except that the mailing address shall not be included on the notice if it appears to identify a distinctly different location from the residence address, such as a business address, another residence or a different city or town, unless the voter has registered as a uniformed services, overseas or homeless voter and provided a local residence address pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (4), subsection (c), section five of this article.

(2) The verification notice shall state the purpose of the procedure, the fact that no further action is required of the applicant, and the fact that a notice of the disposition of the registration application will be mailed after the ten day return period has expired.

(3) If the verification notice is not returned as undeliverable within ten days, the application for registration shall be accepted and entered into the active voter registration files and a registration receipt mailed designating the voter's assigned precinct.

(4) If the verification notice is returned undeliverable within ten days, the clerk shall compare the address given on the voter registration application with the address used on the envelope and, if there is any discrepancy, shall send a second verification notice to the correct address. If there is no discrepancy, the application for registration shall be denied and the notice of denial prescribed in section seventeen of this article shall be mailed.

(5) If the verification notice is returned undeliverable after the registration has been accepted, the clerk shall initiate the confirmation procedure prescribed in section twenty-six of this article.

WVLegislature

(c) If the application received is complete and appears to be from an eligible person who is currently registered within the county, or has been included within the active voter registration files as defined in section eighteen of this article within the preceding calendar year, the clerk of the county commission shall send, by first-class nonforwardable return requested mail, a registration receipt or other notice of the disposition of the application; and

(1) If the application is for a change of name, change of address, change of political party affiliation, reinstatement or other correction of the previous voter registration, the clerk shall include a new voter registration receipt;

(2) If the application does not make any change in the previous voter registration, the clerk shall notify the registrant that the voter is not required to reregister or update the registration as long as he or she lives at the same address and has the same legal name; or

(3) If the notice of disposition is returned undeliverable after the registration has been accepted, the clerk shall initiate the confirmation procedure prescribed in section twenty-six of this article.

(d) If the application contains information indicating the address at which the applicant was previously registered to vote in another county or state, the clerk of the county commission shall give notice to the clerk or registrar of that jurisdiction for the purpose of canceling the previous registration.

WV Legislature

§3-2-17. Denial of registration application; notice; appeal to clerk of the county commission, decision; appeal to county commission, hearing, decision; appeal to circuit court.

(a) If the clerk of the county commission finds that any of the following is true, based on the application or official documentation of ineligibility, the clerk shall deny the application for voter registration:

(1) The applicant, at the time the application is received, is not eligible to register in the county and state pursuant to the provisions of section two of this article;

(2) The applicant has submitted an application which is incomplete, pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c), section five of this article; or

(3) The verification notice as required in section sixteen of this article is returned as undeliverable at the address given by the voter.

(b) When the clerk of the county commission determines that the application must be denied, the clerk shall send, by first class forwardable return requested mail, a notice that the application for registration was denied and the reasons therefor.

(1) If the reason for denial is an incomplete application, the clerk shall inform the voter of the right to reapply and shall enclose a mail voter registration form for the purpose.

(2) If the reason for denial is return of the verification notice as undeliverable at the address given, the clerk shall inform the voter of the right to present proof of residence in order to validate the registration.

(3) If the reason for denial is ineligibility, the notice shall include a statement of eligibility requirements for voter registration and of the applicant's right to appeal the denial.

(c) An applicant whose application for registration is denied by the clerk of the county commission because of ineligibility or for failure to submit proof of residence may make a written request for a reconsideration by the clerk, and may present information relating to his or her eligibility. The clerk shall review the request for consideration and shall issue a decision in writing within fourteen days of the receipt of the request.

(d) If the application is denied upon reconsideration pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the applicant may make a written request for a hearing before the county commission. The county commission shall schedule and conduct the hearing within thirty days of receipt of the request and shall issue a decision, in writing, within fifteen days of the hearing.

(e) An applicant may appeal the decision of the county commission to the circuit court. The circuit court shall only consider the record before the county commission, as authenticated by the clerk of the county commission. The circuit court may affirm the order of the county

WV Legislature

commission, whether the order be affirmative or negative; but if it deems such order not to be reasonably justified by the evidence considered, it may reverse such orders of the county commission in whole or in part as it deems just and right; and if it deems the evidence considered by the county commission in reaching its decision insufficient, it may remand the proceedings to the county commission for further hearing. Any such order or orders of the circuit court shall be certified to the county commission.

(f) Any party to such appeal may, within thirty days after the date of a final order by the circuit court, apply for an appeal to the Supreme Court of Appeals which may grant or refuse such appeal at its discretion. The Supreme Court of Appeals shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine the appeal upon the record before the circuit court and to enter such order as it may find that the circuit court should have entered.

(g) It shall be the duty of the circuit court and the Supreme Court of Appeals, in order to expedite registration and election procedures, to hold such sessions as may be necessary to determine any cases involving the registration of voters. Judges of the circuit court and the Supreme Court of Appeals in vacation shall have the same power as that prescribed in this section for their respective courts.

WV Legislature

§3-2-18. Registration records; active, inactive, canceled, pending and rejected registration files; procedure; voting records.

(a) For the purposes of this article:

(1) "Original voter registration record" means all records submitted or entered in writing or electronically, where permitted by law, for voter registration purposes, including:

(A) Any original application or notice submitted by any person for registration or reinstatement, change of address, change of name, change of party affiliation, correction of records, cancellation, confirmation of voter information, or other request or notice for voter registration purposes; and

(B) Any original entry made on any voters' registration record at the polling place or made or received by the clerk of the county commission relating to any voters' registration such as records of voting, presentation of identification and proof of age, challenge of registration, notice of death or obituary notice, notice of disqualifying conviction or ruling of mental incompetence, or other original document which may affect the status of any person's voter registration.

(2) "Active voter registration records" means the registration records, whether on paper or in electronic format, containing the names, addresses, birth dates, and other required information for all persons within a county who are registered to vote and whose registration has not been designated as inactive or canceled pursuant to the provisions of this article.

(3) "Inactive voter registration records" means the registration records, whether on paper or in electronic format, containing the names, addresses, birth dates, and other required information for all persons designated inactive pursuant to the provisions of §3-2-27 of this code following the return of the prescribed notices as undeliverable at the address provided by the United States Postal Service or entered on the voter registration, or for failure of the contacted voter to return a completed confirmation notice within 30 days of the mailing.

(4) "Canceled voter registration records" means the records containing all required information for all persons who have been removed from the active and inactive voter registration records and who are no longer registered to vote within the county.

(5) "Pending application records" means the temporary records containing all information submitted on a voter registration application, pending the expiration of the verification period.

(6) "Rejected application records" means the records containing all information submitted on a voter registration application which was rejected for reasons as described in this article.

(7) "Confirmation pending records" means the records containing all required information for persons who have been identified to be included in the next succeeding mailing of address confirmation notices as set forth by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42

WV Legislature

U.S.C. § 1973gg *et seq*.).

(b) For the purposes of this chapter or of any other provisions of this code relating to elections conducted under the provisions of this chapter, whenever a requirement is based on the number of registered voters, including, but not limited to, the number of ballots to be printed, the limitations on the size of a precinct, or the number of petition signatures required for election purposes, only those registrations included on the active voter registration files shall be counted and voter registrations included on the inactive voter registration files, as defined in this subdivision, are not to be counted.

(c) Active voter registration records, confirmation pending records, and inactive voter registration records may be maintained in the same physical location, providing the records are coded, marked, or arranged in such a way as to make the status of the registration immediately obvious. Canceled voter registration records, pending application records, and rejected application records may be maintained in separate physical locations. However, all such records shall be maintained in the statewide voter registration database, subject to this article.

(d) The effective date of any action affecting any voter's registration status shall be entered on the voter record, including the effective date of registration, change of name, address or party affiliation or correction of the record, effective date of transfer to inactive status, return to active status, or cancellation. When any registration is designated inactive or is canceled, the reason for the designation or cancellation and any reference notation necessary to locate the original documentation related to the change shall be entered on the voter record.

(e) Within 80 days after each primary, general, municipal, or special election, the clerk of the county commission shall enter the voting records into the statewide voter registration database.

WV Legislature

§3-2-19. Maintenance of active and inactive registration records for municipal elections.

(a) For municipal elections, the registration records of active and inactive voters shall be maintained as follows:

(1) Clerks of the county commissions shall prepare pollbooks or voter lists to be used in municipal elections when the county precinct boundaries and the municipal precinct boundaries are the same and all registrants of the precinct are entitled to vote in state, county, and municipal elections within the precinct or when the registration records of municipal voters within a county precinct are separated and maintained in a separate municipal section or book for that county precinct and can be used either alone or in combination with other pollbooks or voter lists to make up a complete set of registration records for the municipal election precinct.

(2) No registration record may be removed from a municipal registration record unless the registration is lawfully transferred or canceled pursuant to the provisions of this article in both the county and the municipal registration records.

(b) Within 30 days following the entry of any annexation order or change in street names or numbers, the governing body of an incorporated municipality shall file with the clerk of the county commission a certified current official municipal boundary map and a list of streets and ranges of street numbers within the municipality to assist the clerk in determining whether a voter’s address is within the boundaries of the municipality.

WV Legislature

§3-2-20.

Repealed.

Acts, 2003 Reg. Sess., Ch. 100.

WV Legislature

§3-2-21. Maintenance of records in the statewide voter registration database in lieu of precinct record books.

(a) The clerk of the county commission of each county shall maintain a voter registration data system record book into which all required records of appointments of authorized personnel, tests, repairs, program alterations or upgrades and any other action by the clerk of the county commission or by any other person under supervision of the clerk affecting the programming or records contained in the system, other than routine data entry, alteration, use, transfer or transmission of records shall be entered.

(b) The clerk of the county commission shall appoint all personnel authorized to add, change or transfer voter registration information within the statewide voter registration database, and a record of each appointment and the date of authorization shall be entered as provided in subsection (a) of this section. The assignment and confidential record of assigned system identification or authorized user code for each person appointed shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of State.

(c) Voter registration records entered into and maintained in the statewide voter registration database shall include the information required for application for voter registration, for maintenance of registration and voting records, for conduct of elections and for statistical purposes, as prescribed by the Secretary of State.

(d) No person shall make any entry or alteration of any voter record which is not specifically authorized by law. Each entry or action affecting the status of a voter registration shall be based on information in an original voter registration record, as defined in section eighteen of this article.

(e) The clerk of the county commission shall maintain, within the statewide voter registration database, active and inactive voter registration records, confirmation pending records, canceled voter registration records, pending application records and rejected application records, all as defined in section eighteen of this article.

(f) Upon receipt of a completed voter registration application, the clerk shall enter into the statewide voter registration database the information provided on the application, mark the records as pending and initiate the verification or notice of disposition procedure as provided in section sixteen of this article. Upon completion of the verification or notice of disposition, the status of the voter record shall be properly noted in the statewide voter registration database.

(g) Upon receipt of an application or written confirmation from the voter of a change of address within the county, change of name, change of party affiliation or other correction to an active voter registration record, the change shall be entered in the record and the required notice of disposition mailed.

(h) Upon receipt of an application or written confirmation from an inactive voter of a change

WVLegislature

of address within the county, change of name, change of party affiliation or other correction to a registration record, any necessary change shall be entered in the record, the required notice of disposition mailed and the record updated to active status, and the date of the transaction shall be recorded. Receipt of an application or written confirmation from an inactive voter that confirms the voter's current address shall be treated in the same manner.

(i) Upon receipt of a notice of death, a notice of conviction or a notice of a determination of mental incompetence, as provided in section twenty-three of this article, the date and reason for cancellation shall be entered on the voter's record and the record status shall be changed to canceled.

(j) Upon receipt from the voter of a request for cancellation or notice of change of address to an address outside the county pursuant to the provisions of section twenty-two of this article, or as a result of a determination of ineligibility through a general program of removing ineligible voters as authorized by the provisions of this article, the date and reason for cancellation shall be entered on the voter's record and the record status shall be changed to canceled.

WV Legislature

§3-2-22. Correction of voter records.

(a) Any registered voter who moves from one residence to another within the county may file a request for change of address on the voter registration records by completing and signing, under penalty of perjury, as provided in section thirty-six of this article, and filing:

(1) A change of address form at the office of the clerk of the county commission or through any of the voter registration outreach services established pursuant to the provisions of section eight of this article;

(2) A state or federal mail registration form;

(3) A change of address form for driver licensing purposes;

(4) A change of address form for voter registration purposes at any authorized voter registration agency;

(5) A confirmation of change of address form received pursuant to the provisions of section twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six or twenty-seven of this article; or

(6) An affidavit of change of address at the polling place of the precinct in which the new residence is located on election day.

(b) Upon the receipt of any request for change of address as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the clerk shall enter the change, assign the proper county precinct number and, if applicable, assign the proper municipal precinct number, and issue an acknowledgement notice or mail that notice to the voter at the new address.

(c) When the clerk of the county commission receives notice that a voter may have moved from one residence to another within the county from the United States postal service or through state programs to compare voting registration records with records of other official state or county agencies which receive, update and utilize residence address information, the clerk shall enter the change of address onto the voter registration record and send the confirmation notice as prescribed in section twenty-six of this article.

(d) Any registered voter who changes his or her legal name through marriage or by order of the circuit court may file a request for change of address on the voter registration records by completing and signing, under penalty of perjury, as provided in section thirty-six of this article, and filing:

(1) Any voter registration application form authorized by this article; or

(2) An affidavit of change of legal name at the polling place on election day.

(e) Upon the receipt of any request for change of legal name as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the clerk shall enter the change and issue an acknowledgement notice or mail

WV Legislature

the notice to the voter.

(f) Any registered voter who desires to change his or her political party affiliation may do so by filing, no later than the close of voter registration for an election, any voter registration application form authorized by the provisions of this article. Upon receipt of a request for change of political party affiliation, the clerk shall enter the change and issue an acknowledgement notice or mail the notice to the voter.

(g) Any registered voter who finds an error in the information on his or her voter registration record may request a correction of the record by completing, signing and filing any voter registration form authorized by the provisions of this article, or an affidavit requesting such correction at the polling place on election day: Provided, That any voter who, in a primary election, alleges the party affiliation entered on the voter registration record at the polling place is incorrect and who desires to vote the ballot of a political party for which he or she does not appear to be eligible, may vote a challenged or provisional ballot of the desired political party: Provided, however, That the ballot may be counted in the canvass only if the original voter registration record contains a designation of such political party which has been filed no later than the close of registration for the primary election in issue.

WV Legislature

§3-2-22a.

Repealed.

Acts, 1994 Reg. Sess., Ch. 58.

WV Legislature

§3-2-23. Cancellation of registration of deceased or ineligible voters.

The clerk of the county commission shall cancel the registration of a voter:

(1) Upon the voter's death as verified by:

(A) A death certificate from the Registrar of Vital Statistics or a notice from the Secretary of State that a comparison of the records of the registrar with the county voter registration records show the person to be deceased;

(B) The publication of an obituary or other writing clearly identifying the deceased person by name, residence and age corresponding to the voter record; or

(C) An affidavit signed by the parent, legal guardian, child, sibling or spouse of the voter giving the name and birth date of the voter, and date and place of death;

(2) Upon receipt of an official notice from a state or federal court that the person has been convicted of a felony, of treason or bribery in an election;

(3) Upon receipt of a notice from the appropriate court of competent jurisdiction of a determination of a voter's mental incompetence;

(4) Upon receipt from the voter of a written request to cancel the voter's registration, upon confirmation by the voter of a change of address to an address outside the county, upon notice from a voter registrar of another jurisdiction outside the county or state of the receipt of an application for voter registration in that jurisdiction, or upon notice from the Secretary of State that a voter registration application was accepted in another county of the state subsequent to the last registration date in the first county, as determined from a comparison of voter records; or

(5) Upon failure to respond and produce evidence of continued eligibility to register following the challenge of the voter's registration pursuant to the provisions of section twenty-eight of this article.

WV Legislature

§3-2-23a. Cancellation of registration of deceased or ineligible voter.

The Secretary may propose legislative rules regarding the maintenance of the security and privacy of the voter registration records and the procedures to be followed by clerks of the county commission and the Secretary to make changes in voter registration records, including cancellations.

WV Legislature

§3-2-24.

Repealed.

Acts, 2013 Reg. Sess., Ch. 68.

WV Legislature

§3-2-25. Systematic purging program for removal of ineligible voters from active voter registration files; comparison of data records; confirmation notices; public inspection list.

(a) The systematic purging program provided in this section shall begin no earlier than October 1 of each odd-numbered year and shall be completed no later than February 1 of the following year. The clerk of the county commission shall transmit, or mail to the Secretary of State, a certification that the systematic purging program has been completed and all voters identified as no longer eligible to vote have been canceled in the statewide voter registration database in accordance with the law no later than February 15 in the year in which the purging program is completed.

(b) The Secretary of State shall provide for the comparison of data records of all counties. The Secretary of State shall, based on the comparison, prepare a list for each county which shall include the voter registration record for each voter shown on that county's list who appears to have registered or to have updated a voter registration in another county at a subsequent date. The resulting lists shall be returned to the appropriate county and the clerk of the county commission shall proceed with the confirmation procedure for those voters as prescribed in §3-2-26 of this code.

(c) The Secretary of State may provide for the comparison of data records of counties with the data records of the Division of Motor Vehicles, the registrar of vital statistics, and with the data records of any other state agency which maintains records of residents of the state, if the procedure is practical and the agency agrees to participate. Any resulting information regarding potentially ineligible voters shall be returned to the appropriate county and the clerk of the county commission shall proceed with the confirmation procedure as prescribed in §3-2-26 of this code.

(d) The records of all voters not identified pursuant to the procedures set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall be combined for comparison with United States Postal Service change of address information, as described in section 8(c)(A) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U. S. C.§1973gg, et seq.). The Secretary of State shall contract with an authorized vendor of the United States Postal Service to perform the comparison. The cost of the confirmation notices, labels, and postage shall be paid for by the counties.

(e) The Secretary of State shall return to each county the identified matches of the county voter registration records and the postal service change of address records.

(1) When the change of address information indicates the voter has moved to a new address within the county, the clerk of the county commission shall enter the new address on the voter record and assign the proper precinct.

(2) The clerk of the county commission shall then mail to each voter who appears to have moved from the residence address shown on the registration records a confirmation notice

WV Legislature

pursuant to §3-2-26 of this code and of section 8(d)(2) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U. S. C.§1973gg, et seq.). The notice shall be mailed, no later than December 31, to the new address provided by the postal service records or to the old address if a new address is not available.

(f) The clerk of the county commission shall indicate in the statewide voter registration database the name and address of each voter to whom a confirmation notice was mailed and the date on which the notice was mailed.

(g) Upon receipt of any response or returned mailing sent pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the clerk shall immediately enter the date and type of response received in the statewide voter registration database and shall then proceed in accordance with the provisions of §3-2-26 of this code.

(h) For purposes of complying with the recordkeeping and public inspection requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U. S. C.§1973gg, et seq.), and with the provisions of §3-2-27 of this code, the public inspection lists shall be maintained either: (1) In printed form kept in a binder prepared for such purpose and available for public inspection during regular business hours at the office of the clerk of the county commission; or (2) in read-only data format available for public inspection on computer terminals set aside and available for regular use by the general public. Information concerning whether or not each person has responded to the notice shall be entered into the statewide voter registration database upon receipt and shall be available for public inspection as of the date the information is received.

(i) Any voter to whom a confirmation notice was mailed pursuant to the provisions of subsection (e) of this section who fails to respond to the notice, or to update his or her voter registration address by February 1 immediately following the completion of the program, shall be designated inactive in the statewide voter registration database. Any voter designated inactive shall be required to affirm his or her current residence address on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, upon appearing at the polls to vote.

(j) In addition to the preceding purging procedures, all counties using the change of address information of the United States Postal Service shall also, once each four years during the period established for systematic purging in the year following a presidential election year, conduct the same procedure by mailing a confirmation notice to those persons not identified as potentially ineligible through the change of address comparison procedure but who have not updated their voter registration records and have not voted in any election during the preceding two calendar years. The purpose of this additional systematic confirmation procedure shall be to identify those voters who may have moved without filing a forwarding address, moved with a forwarding address under another name, died in another county or state so that the certificate of death was not returned to the clerk of the county commission, or who otherwise have become ineligible.

WV Legislature

§3-2-26. Confirmation notices for systematic purging program.

(a) For purposes of this article, a "confirmation notice" means a specific notice sent to a registered voter when that voter appears to have moved or to have become ineligible to vote, based on:

(1) A mailing returned as undeliverable as provided in sections sixteen, seventeen and twenty of this article; or

(2) Information obtained through a systematic purging program as provided in sections twenty-four and twenty-five of this article.

(b) A confirmation notice shall be sent by first class, forwardable mail and shall include a preaddressed, postage prepaid or business reply return card on which the registrant may state his or her current address, together with a notice prescribed by the Secretary of State to meet the specific requirements of Section 8(d)(2) of the "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" (42 U.S.C. 1973gg).

WV Legislature

§3-2-27. Procedure following sending of confirmation notices; correction or cancellation of registrations upon response; designation of inactive when no response; cancellation of inactive voters; records.

(a) Upon receipt of a confirmation response card mailed pursuant to the provisions of §3-2-26 of this code and returned completed and signed by the voter, the clerk shall either:

(1) Update the voter registration by noting the confirmation of the current address if no other changes are requested or by entering any change of address within the county, change of name, or other correction requested by the voter; or

(2) Cancel the voter's registration if the voter confirms that he or she has moved out of the county.

(b) Upon receipt of the confirmation notice returned undeliverable, the clerk may either:

(1) Send a second confirmation notice to the old residence address if the first notice was sent to a new address provided by the postal service; or

(2) Designate the registration as inactive or transfer it to the inactive voter registration file, as defined in section 19 of this article.

(c) If no response to the confirmation notice is received by February 1 following the mailing of the confirmation notice, the clerk shall designate the registration as inactive or transfer it to the inactive voter registration file as provided in §3-2-19 of this code.

(d) An inactive voter registration shall be returned to active status or transferred to the active voter registration file upon the voter's application to update the registration or to vote in any election while they remain on the inactive list.

(e) The clerk of the county commission shall cancel the records of all voters on the inactive file who have not responded to the confirmation notice, otherwise updated their voter registrations or voted in any state, county, or municipal primary, general or special election held within the county during a period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for federal office which occurs after the date of the notice.

(f) Upon notification by the Secretary of State, the clerk of the county commission shall cancel the records of all voters who are no longer West Virginia citizens and have obtained a driver’s license in another state based on information provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles under § 3-2-4a(g) of this code.

(g) The amendments to this section enacted by the Legislature in the 2024 Regular Session are effective January 1, 2025.

www.legislature

§3-2-28. Challenges; notice; cancellation of registration.

(a) The registration of any registered voter may be challenged by the clerk of the county commission, the Secretary of State, any registrar of the county, the chairman of any political party committee or by any voter who shall appear in person at the clerk's office. The person challenging the registration shall complete a form prescribed by the Secretary of State giving the name and address of the voter and the reason for challenge. The challenge shall be filed as a matter of record in the office of the clerk of the county commission.

(b) Upon the receipt of a challenge, the clerk of the county commission shall mail a notice of challenge to the registrant, setting forth that the voter's registration will be canceled if the voter does not appear in person during business hours at the clerk's office within a period of thirty days from the mailing of the notice and present evidence of his or her eligibility. The form of the notice of challenge shall be prescribed by the Secretary of State and shall be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(c) If the notice of challenge is returned as undeliverable at the registration address, or if the challenged registrant does not appear and present evidence of continued eligibility within the prescribed time, the voter's registration shall be immediately canceled. Returned mail or failure to appear shall be prima facie evidence of the registrant's ineligibility. If the registrant does timely appear and present evidence of his or her eligibility, the clerk shall determine eligibility to be registered as a voter as in any other case. If the reason for ineligibility is that the voter does not reside at the address on the registration and the voter presents evidence of residence elsewhere in the county, the clerk of the county commission shall accept a request for change of address and remove the challenge.

WV Legislature

§3-2-29. Custody of original registration records.

(a) All original registration records in paper format shall remain in the custody of the county commission, by its clerk, or, electronically, in the statewide voter registration database and shall not be removed except for use in an election or by the order of a court of record or in compliance with a subpoena duces tecum issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of section six, article one-a of this chapter.

(b) All original voter registration records shall be retained for a minimum of five years following the last recorded activity relating to the record, except that any application which duplicates and does not alter an existing registration shall be retained for a minimum of two years following its receipt: *Provided*, That following approval by the Secretary of State pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the clerk of the county commission may destroy original registration records that have been retained for a period of time if an exact digital or facsimile copy of each of the records is made and stored in an electronic format in a secure manner on one or more servers under the control of the clerk of the county commission. Digital or facsimile copies may include but are not limited to PDF or JPEG formats. The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules pursuant to the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of this code for the specific retention times and procedures required for original voter registration records.

(c) Prior to the destruction of original voter registration applications or registration cards of voters whose registration has been canceled at least five years previously, the clerk of the county commission shall notify the Secretary of State of the intention to destroy those records. If the Secretary of State determines, within ninety days of the receipt of the notice, that those records are of sufficient historical value that microfilm or other permanent data storage is desirable, the Secretary of State may require that the records be delivered to a specified location for processing at state expense.

(d) Active, inactive, pending, rejected, and canceled registration records shall be maintained as a permanent record, as follows:

(1) Individual canceled registration records shall be maintained in the statewide voter registration database for a period of at least five years following cancellation. Upon the expiration of five years, those individual records may be removed from the statewide voter registration database and disposed of in accordance with the appropriate document retention policy.

(2) Rejected registration records shall be maintained in the same manner as provided for cancelled registration records.

WV Legislature

§3-2-30. Public inspection of voter registration records in the office of the clerk of the county commission; providing voter lists for noncommercial use; prohibition against resale of voter lists for commercial use or profit.

1. Any person may examine the active, inactive, rejected and canceled voter registration records during office hours of the clerk of the county commission in accordance with chapter twenty-nine-b of this code.

Active, inactive, rejected and canceled voter files are to be maintained in electronic data format. Any person may examine voter record information in printed form or in a read-only data format on a computer terminal set aside for public use, if available. The data files available for examination and copying shall include all registration and voting information maintained in the file, but may not include the registrant's telephone number, email address, Social Security number or driver's license number or nonoperator's identification number issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

(b) The clerk of the county commission shall, upon request, provide printed copies of the lists of voters for each precinct. No list prepared under this section may include the registrant's telephone number, email address, Social Security number or driver's license number or nonoperator's identification number issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles. The clerk shall establish a written policy, posted within public view, listing the options for selection and sorting criteria and available data elements. The data elements shall include, at least:

(1) The name, residence address, political party affiliation and status of the registrant;

(2) The available formats of the lists; and

(3) The times at which lists will be prepared. A copy of the county policy shall be filed with the Secretary of State no later than January 1 of each even-numbered year.

(c) Lists of registered voters may be obtained for noncommercial purposes in data format on disk or as a printed list provided by the clerk of the county commission at a cost of one cent per name. No data file prepared under this subsection may include the registrant's telephone number, email address, Social Security number or driver's license number or nonoperator's identification number issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

(d) The fees received by the clerk of the county commission shall be kept in a separate fund under the supervision of the clerk and may be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of the preparation of the voter lists. After deducting the costs of preparing voter lists, the clerk shall deposit the net proceeds from the sale of the voter lists in the State Election Fund as set forth in subsection (b), section forty-eight, article one of this chapter.

(e) The Secretary of State shall make voter lists available for sale subject to the limitations as provided in subsection (a) of this section. The fees for the voter lists shall be as prescribed

WV Legislature

in section two-b, article one, chapter fifty-nine of this code. The revenue associated with purchase of a partial list or associated with a complete statewide list shall be deposited in the State Election Fund as set forth in subsection (b), section forty-eight, article one of this chapter.

(f) No voter registration lists or data files containing voter names, addresses or other information derived from voter data files obtained pursuant to the provisions of this article may be used for commercial or charitable solicitations or advertising, sold or reproduced for resale.

(g) This section may not be interpreted to prevent the Secretary of State from sharing data files containing voter information with authorized service providers or sharing data across state lines with any state or local election official for the purpose of voter registration and election administration in accordance with this chapter or applicable federal law.

WV Legislature

§3-2-31. Rules pertaining to voting after registration or change of address within the county.

(a) A voter who designates a political affiliation with a major party on a registration application filed no later than the close of voter registration before the primary may vote the ballot of that political party in the primary election. Political parties, through the official action of their state executive committees, shall be permitted to determine whether unaffiliated voters or voters of other parties shall be allowed to vote that party's primary election ballot upon request.

(b) A voter whose registration record lists one residence address but the voter has since moved to another residence address within the precinct shall be permitted to update the registration at the polling place and vote without challenge for that reason.

(c) A voter whose registration record lists one residence address but the voter has since moved to another residence address in a different precinct in the same county shall be permitted to update the registration at the polling place serving the new precinct. The voter shall be permitted to vote as follows:

(1) The voter may cast a challenged or provisional ballot at the new polling place if the voter's registration is found on the registration records within the county during the canvass and no other challenge of eligibility was entered on election day, the challenge shall be removed and the ballot shall be counted;

(2) During the early in-person voting period, the voter may vote in the precinct serving their new address without casting a provisional ballot if the voter shows proof of new address and the change is completed in the state-wide voter registration system by the county clerk prior to canvass.

(d) A voter whose registration record has been placed on an inactive status or transferred to an inactive file and who has not responded to a confirmation notice sent pursuant to the provisions of section 24, 25, or 26 of this article and who offers to vote at the polling place where he or she is registered to vote shall be required to affirm his or her present residence address under penalty of perjury, as provided in section 36 of this article.

WV Legislature

§3-2-32. Unlawful registration or rejection of voter; penalties.

(a) Any registrar or clerk of the county commission who knowingly registers or permits to be registered a person not lawfully entitled to be registered, or who knowingly refuses to register a person entitled to be registered, or who knowingly assists in preventing such person from being registered, or who inserts or intentionally permits to be inserted a name or other entry in any registration form or file, knowing or having reason to know that the entry should not be made, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than one $1,000 or confined in the county jail for not more than one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

(b) Any person who registers or applies to be registered, or persuades or assists another to be registered, or who applies for a change of residence address, knowing or having reason to know that he or she is not entitled to be registered or to have his or her residence address changed on the registration record, or any person who declares an address known not to be his or her legal residence or who impersonates another in an application for registration, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $1,000 or confined in the county jail for not more than one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

WV Legislature

§3-2-33. Neglect of duty by registration officers; penalties.

Any registrar or clerk of the county commission or his or her authorized deputies or any other persons upon whom a duty is imposed pursuant to the provisions of this article, or the rules, regulations or directions promulgated or issued by the Secretary of State as the chief registration official of the state, who shall willfully delay, neglect or refuse to perform such duty, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $1,000 or confined in the county jail for not more than one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

WV Legislature

§3-2-34. Alteration or destruction of records; penalties.

(a) Any person who wrongfully and intentionally inserts or permits to be wrongfully inserted any name or material entry on any registration form, file or any other record in connection with registration, or who wrongfully alters or destroys an entry which has been duly made, or who wrongfully takes and removes any such registration form, or any other record authorized or required in connection with registration from the custody of any person having lawful charge thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $1,000 or confined in the county jail for not more than one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

(b) Any person, in the absence of specific authority provided under the provisions of this article, who destroys or attempts to destroy any registration document or record, or who removes or attempts to remove such registration document or record, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than $100 nor more than $1,000 or confined in the county jail for not more than one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

WV Legislature

§3-2-35. Withholding information; penalties.

Any person who neglects to or refuses to furnish to the Secretary of State, to the county commission, or to the clerk of the county commission any information which he or she is authorized to obtain in connection with registration, or to exhibit any records, papers or documents herein authorized to be inspected by them, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $1,000, or confined in the county jail for not more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

WV Legislature

§3-2-36. Crimes and offenses relating to applications for registration or change of registration; penalties.

(a) A person who willfully provides false information concerning a material matter or thing on an application for registration or change of registration, under oath, affirmation or attestation, shall be deemed guilty of perjury; one who induces or procures another person to do so shall be deemed guilty of subordination of perjury.

(b) A person who knowingly offers any application for registration or transfer of registration when the applicant therein is not qualified to register or transfer his registration, or any person who knowingly administers an oath or affirmation to an applicant for registration or change of registration when the application contains false information concerning a material matter or thing, or any person who falsely represents that an oath or affirmation was executed by an applicant for registration or change of registration, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary not less than one year nor more than three years, or fined not less than $500 nor more than $5,000, or both fined and imprisoned, or, in the discretion of the court, be confined in the county jail for not more than one year, or fined not less than $500 nor more than $5,000, or both fined and imprisoned.

WV Legislature

§3-2-37. Effective date.

(a) Except as may otherwise be specifically provided in this section, the provisions of this article shall take effect on January 1, 1995. The provisions of this article relating to the preparation for implementation of voter registration programs and procedures under this article and under the "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" (42 U.S.C. 1973gg), including sections three, five, twelve and thirteen of this article and subsections (a) and (b), section fourteen of this article and subdivision (4), subsection (b), section nineteen of this article and section twenty of this article, shall take effect upon the effective date of this article.

(b) All procedures and requirements established by the previous enactment of this article, except the provisions of subsection (d), section twenty-two of this article, shall continue in effect until December 31, 1994 inclusive, as if article two of this chapter had not been amended.

WV Legislature

§3-2-38.

Repealed.

Acts, 1994 Reg. Sess., Ch. 58.

WV Legislature

§3-2-39.

Repealed.

Acts, 1994 Reg. Sess., Ch. 58.

WV Legislature

§3-2-40.

Repealed.

Acts, 1994 Reg. Sess., Ch. 58.

WV Legislature

§3-2-41.

Repealed.

Acts, 1994 Reg. Sess., Ch. 58.

WV Legislature

§3-2-42.

Repealed.

Acts, 1994 Reg. Sess., Ch. 58.

WV Legislature

§3-2-43.

Repealed.

Acts, 1994 Reg. Sess., Ch. 58.

WV Legislature

§3-2-44.

Repealed.

Acts, 1994 Reg. Sess., Ch. 58.

WV Legislature