

SENATE, No. 4762

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates automatic voter registration, restores “opt-in” voter registration process, and requires proof of citizenship for voter registration at MVC.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT eliminating automatic voter registration and requiring
2 proof of citizenship for certain voter registration, amending
3 P.L.1994, c.182, and repealing section 4 of P.L.2018, c.6
4 (C.19:31-6.14).

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

8
9 1. (New Section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. In 2018, the Legislature amended State law to require the
11 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and certain other State
12 agencies to automatically register to vote applicants for a motor
13 vehicle driver's license, an examination permit, a probationary
14 driver's license, or a non-driver identification card, unless the
15 applicant affirmatively declines.

16 b. This "opt-out" voter registration system replaced a process
17 under which State residents were offered the opportunity to
18 affirmatively register to vote in connection with certain motor
19 vehicle transactions, but were not registered to vote unless they
20 took action to do so.

21 c. In July 2026, Governor Mikie Sherrill publicly acknowledged
22 that a software error in the Motor Vehicle Commission's automatic
23 voter registration system resulted in approximately 6,600
24 individuals who indicated in response to a direct citizenship
25 question that they were not United States citizens nonetheless being
26 registered to vote between June 2023 and June 2024.

27 d. According to the Governor's own public account,
28 approximately 400 of these improperly registered individuals
29 subsequently cast ballots in New Jersey elections.

30 e. New Jersey remains one of about a dozen states without some
31 form of voter identification requirement, removing an additional
32 safeguard against this kind of registration and voting irregularities.

33 f. In response to this systemic failure, Governor Sherrill ordered
34 an internal investigation, directed the removal of improperly
35 registered individuals from the voter rolls, and directed the
36 replacement of the Motor Vehicle Commission's technology
37 vendor, but did not propose ending the inherently flawed "opt-out"
38 voter registration system itself. The Governor also has not
39 proposed ending the practice of issuing driver's licenses to
40 individuals without lawful immigration status, which the
41 Legislature finds to be a significant underlying, systemic source of
42 risk to the accuracy of this State's voter rolls.

43 g. An "opt-out" voter registration system places the burden on
44 the applicant and the State to identify and correct voter registration
45 made in error, whereas a process in which an applicant must

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 affirmatively complete and submit a voter registration application
2 provides a more reliable and verifiable record on the applicant's
3 eligibility and intent to register.

4 h. A requirement that an applicant provide documentary proof of
5 United States citizenship as a condition of voter registration at the
6 Motor Vehicle Commission provides a direct, verifiable safeguard
7 against the registration of ineligible persons and directly addresses
8 the voter registration errors that occurred in 2023 and 20024.

9 i. It is therefore necessary and appropriate to repeal the
10 automatic voter registration provisions enacted by P.L.2018, c.6, to
11 restore an "opt-in" voter registration process at the Motor Vehicle
12 Commission, and to require proof of citizenship, in order to protect
13 the integrity and accuracy of the State's voter registration rolls.

14
15 2. Section 24 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.39:2-3.2) is amended to read
16 as follows:

17 24. a. (1) The Secretary of State, with the assistance and
18 concurrence of the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
19 Vehicle Commission, shall **【provide for an eligible applicant】**
20 formulate a means of permitting a person to simultaneously apply
21 for a motor vehicle driver's license, an examination permit, a
22 probationary driver's license, or a non-driver identification card, as
23 applicable, and **【be automatically registered】** to register to vote, or
24 have an existing voter registration updated, in a manner which
25 satisfies both the requirements necessary to receive a license to
26 operate a motor vehicle, pursuant to R.S.39:3-10, or an examination
27 permit, a probationary driver's license, or a non-driver identification
28 card, as applicable, and to be permitted to register to vote, pursuant
29 to R.S.19:4-1**【. The applicant shall be offered an opportunity to**
30 **decline the automatic voter registration under this section.】;**
31 provided that, in the course of business with the Motor Vehicle
32 Commission, the applicant provides or has provided documentation
33 demonstrating United States citizenship. The Chief Administrator,
34 in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall by regulation
35 prescribe the forms of documentary proof of citizenship acceptable
36 for the purposes of this subsection, which shall include, at a
37 minimum, a certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a state or
38 the District of Columbia, a valid United States passport, or
39 documentation of naturalization or derivative citizenship issued by
40 the United States Department of State or the United States
41 Citizenship and Immigration Services.

42 (2) The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, upon receipt of
43 a completed voter registration application under this section, shall
44 stamp or otherwise mark the lower right-hand corner of the
45 document with the date on which it was so received and forward the
46 document to the Secretary of State no later than the 10th day
47 following the date of acceptance.

1 (3) Each application for voter registration which is received by
2 the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall be considered and
3 processed as the replacement for any pre-existing voter registration
4 of the applicant.

5 b. [(1) Pursuant to subsection a. of this section, for every
6 application for a REAL ID license or identification card, and each
7 related update, renewal, or change of address, where, in the course
8 of business with the Motor Vehicle Commission, the applicant
9 provides or has provided documentation demonstrating United
10 States citizenship, is determined to not already be registered to vote
11 in the State of New Jersey in accordance with subsection g. of this
12 section, and is of sufficient age to register to vote, the Chief
13 Administrator shall promptly transmit electronically to the
14 Secretary of State the applicant's:

15 (a) name;

16 (b) date of birth;

17 (c) driver's license or state ID number;

18 (d) residence address, and mailing address if different from the
19 residence address;

20 (e) county of residence;

21 (f) information concerning the applicant's citizenship status;

22 (g) signature as a digitized image;

23 (h) telephone number, if available; and

24 (i) e-mail address, if available.

25 The Chief Administrator shall not transmit information for any
26 person who, at the time of an application for a REAL ID license or
27 identification card or a related update, renewal, or change of
28 address transaction for a REAL ID license or identification card
29 with the Motor Vehicle Commission, provides a document that
30 conclusively demonstrates that the person is not a United States
31 citizen. Nothing in this section shall be construed to amend the
32 substantive qualifications for voter registration in this State, or to
33 require documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration, or to
34 require the Motor Vehicle Commission to maintain or validate
35 official records of voter registration. Nothing in this section shall
36 be construed to authorize the Motor Vehicle Commission to request
37 documentation establishing an applicant's citizenship solely for the
38 purposes of voter registration.

39 (2) Upon receiving information pursuant to paragraph (1) of this
40 subsection for a person who is not registered to vote in the State of
41 New Jersey, is of sufficient age to register to vote, and has provided
42 documentation demonstrating United States citizenship in the
43 course of business with the Motor Vehicle Commission, unless the
44 Secretary of State determines that the person is ineligible to register
45 to vote or is a member of the Address Confidentiality Program
46 pursuant to R.S.47:4-1, the Secretary of State shall transmit the
47 person's information to the appropriate county commissioner of
48 registration.

1 (3) Upon receiving information pursuant to paragraph (2) of this
2 subsection, a county commissioner of registration shall proceed to
3 register the person to vote pursuant to section 17 of P.L.1974, c.30
4 (C.19:31-6.5) and send to the person's address of record, by
5 nonforwardable mail, a notice that the person has been registered to
6 vote that contains a postage paid preaddressed return form by which
7 the person may affiliate with a political party or decline to be
8 registered and request that their registration be removed from the
9 Statewide voter registration system. Such notice shall also provide
10 an option for the person to apply for and receive a mail-in ballot as
11 provided under section 3 of P.L.2009, c.79 (C.19:63-3), until the
12 voter requests otherwise. A notice mailed pursuant to this
13 paragraph shall include an explanation of the eligibility
14 requirements to register to vote. The notice shall also state the
15 penalties for submission of a false application. A person shall not
16 be registered to vote pursuant to this subsection until their
17 information has been received and processed by a county
18 commissioner of registration pursuant to section 17 of P.L.1974,
19 c.30 (C.19:31-6.5), provided that such registration shall be deemed
20 effective as of the date of the person's application with the Motor
21 Vehicle Commission. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed
22 to alter the provisions of R.S.19:31-15.

23 (4) The notice provided under paragraph (3) of this subsection
24 shall also include a statement that, if the person declines to register
25 to vote and requests to have their registration removed from the
26 Statewide voter registration system, the request will remain
27 confidential unless required by other laws, regulations, or a lawful
28 court order or subpoena and will be used only for election
29 administration purposes under the provisions of Title 19 of the
30 Revised Statutes. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to
31 alter the provisions of R.S.19:31-15. The notice shall also include a
32 statement that, if a person does not decline registration, the office at
33 which the person was registered will remain confidential and will
34 be used only for election administration purposes.

35 (5) The Secretary of State shall prescribe the form of the notice
36 required under paragraph (3) of this subsection. Such notice may
37 be combined with the notice provided to newly registered voters
38 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of section 17 of P.L.1974,
39 c.30 (C.19:31-6.5). The notice shall include the required
40 information in English and Spanish, as well any additional language
41 which is the primary language of five percent or more of the
42 registered voters in the county where the notice is mailed.

43 (6) If a person returns the notice provided under paragraph (3)
44 of this subsection by declining to be registered and requesting to
45 have their registration removed from the Statewide voter
46 registration system, the county commissioner of registration shall
47 remove the person's voter registration from the Statewide voter
48 registration system, and the person shall be deemed to have never

1 registered. However, if the person has voted in an election after the
2 transfer of the person's record but before the notice is returned, the
3 returned form shall be of no force and effect and the person shall be
4 registered as of the date of the person's application with the Motor
5 Vehicle Commission. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed
6 to alter the provisions of R.S.19:31-15.

7 (7) If a person returns the notice provided under paragraph (3)
8 of this subsection and affiliates with a political party, the person
9 shall be registered to vote as of the date of the person's application
10 with the Motor Vehicle Commission and the person's affiliation
11 shall be marked effective as of the date the affiliation information is
12 received.

13 (8) If the person returns the notice provided under paragraph (3)
14 of this subsection but does not select any options or provide any
15 new information, the form shall be of no force and effect, and the
16 person shall remain registered to vote.

17 (9) If a notice provided under paragraph (3) of this subsection is
18 returned as undeliverable, the county commissioner of registration
19 shall send the person a confirmation notice pursuant to subsection
20 d. of R.S.19:31-15.

21 (10) Information relating to the return of a notice form declining
22 to be registered shall not be used for any purpose other than as
23 described under paragraph (4) of this subsection. Nothing in this
24 section shall be construed to prohibit, or in any way restrict, any
25 action where such prohibition or restriction would be contrary to
26 federal law. However, documents, records, or information relating
27 to an individual person's decision declining to be registered shall
28 not be disclosed for any purpose related to Title 8 of the United
29 States Code without the person's informed consent, a warrant
30 signed by a State or federal judge, or a lawful court order or
31 subpoena. 】 (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending before
32 the Legislature as this bill)

33 c. 【(1) Pursuant to subsection a. of this section, for every
34 application for a standard motor vehicle driver's license, an
35 examination permit, a standard probationary driver's license, or a
36 standard non-driver identification card, and each related update,
37 renewal, or change of address, by a person who is determined to not
38 already be registered to vote in the State of New Jersey in
39 accordance with subsection g. of this section, except as provided in
40 paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, the Chief Administrator
41 shall ensure that the information necessary for voter registration is
42 collected from the application and promptly transmitted
43 electronically to the Secretary of State if the applicant selects the
44 option to register to vote. Such application shall require an
45 applicant to either affirmatively select or affirmatively decline voter
46 registration as a necessary condition to complete the application.
47 The Chief Administrator shall ensure that electronic records are not
48 transmitted to the Secretary of State for any applicant who has

1 declined registration under this subsection. Upon receiving
2 information pursuant to this section, the Secretary of State shall
3 transmit the person's information to the appropriate county
4 commissioner of registration. The Commissioner of Registration
5 shall register to vote any eligible applicant who has selected voter
6 registration under this subsection.

7 (2) Voter registration information from an application received
8 online for the renewal of a motor vehicle driver's license or non-
9 driver identification card shall be collected and promptly
10 transmitted electronically to the Secretary of State upon the
11 implementation by the Secretary of State of online voter
12 registration. Subsection c. of this section shall be inapplicable to
13 such applications until that time.

14 (3) Voter registration information from an application received
15 through the mail for the renewal of a motor vehicle driver's license
16 or non-driver identification card shall be exempt from collection
17 and electronic transmission to the Secretary of State until such time
18 as the Chief Administrator determines that the prompt electronic
19 transmission of the information is practicable. Paragraph (4) of this
20 subsection shall be inapplicable to such applications until that time.
21 Following the effective date of P.L.2018, c.6, the Chief
22 Administrator shall inform the Governor and the Legislature every
23 six months of the practicability of collecting and transmitting to the
24 Secretary of State voter registration information from such
25 applications. This paragraph shall not be construed to preclude the
26 Motor Vehicle Commission from processing voter registration
27 applications received in the manner in which such applications were
28 processed in connection with such renewals prior to the effective
29 date of P.L.2018, c.6.

30 (4) The Chief Administrator shall provide for the following
31 notices to be provided with every application for a standard motor
32 vehicle driver's license, an examination permit, a standard
33 probationary driver's license, or a standard non-driver identification
34 card and every related update, renewal, or change of address
35 conducted pursuant to subsection c. of this section:

36 (a) a notice requiring the applicant to either affirmatively select
37 or affirmatively decline voter registration as a necessary condition
38 to complete the application;

39 (b) a notice of the voter eligibility requirements under R.S.19:4-
40 1 and the penalties for false registration and illegal voting under
41 Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, which notice shall contain an
42 affirmation that the applicant meets each such requirement and shall
43 require the signature of the applicant, under penalty of law; and

44 (c) a notice that an applicant who is a victim of domestic
45 violence or stalking may decline the automatic voter registration
46 and register to vote without disclosing the applicant's street address
47 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1994, c.148 (C.19:31-3.2). **】** Deleted

1 by amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending before the Legislature as this
2 bill)

3 d. **[(1)** For every application for a motor vehicle driver's
4 license, an examination permit, a probationary driver's license, or a
5 non-driver identification card, and each related update, renewal, or
6 change of address, by an applicant who is determined to already be
7 registered to vote in the State of New Jersey pursuant to subsection
8 g. of this section, the Chief Administrator shall promptly transmit
9 electronically to the Secretary of State information regarding the
10 applicant's name and address for the purpose of maintaining current
11 information on the applicant.

12 (2) Any change of address notification received by the Chief
13 Administrator in paper format shall be reported to the Secretary of
14 State no later than the 10th day following its receipt by the Chief
15 Administrator.

16 (3) For any information received from the Chief Administrator
17 pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection d. of this section for an
18 applicant who is already registered to vote in the State of New
19 Jersey, and that indicates a different name or address from that on
20 the person's voter registration record, the Secretary of State shall
21 transmit change of address and change of name information for the
22 person to the appropriate commissioner of registration. The
23 Commissioner of Registration in the applicant's county of residence
24 shall use the change of address or change of name notification to
25 update an existing voter registration, transfer the person's
26 registration file if inactive to the active file, and send to the
27 person's address of record, by forwardable mail, notice of the
28 change and a postage paid preaddressed return form by which the
29 person may verify or correct the information. If the person returns
30 the notice and indicates that the change to the person's registration
31 record was an error, the appropriate county commissioners of
32 registration, including the commissioner of the previous county of
33 residence, shall immediately correct the person's previously
34 updated information in the Statewide Voter Registration System. A
35 change of address notification submitted to the commission, which
36 is used for voter registration purposes, shall be subject to the
37 provisions of section 1 of P.L.1994, c.148 (C.19:31-3.2) if the
38 person submitting the change of address notification previously
39 registered to vote in accordance with that section.] (Deleted by
40 amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending before the Legislature as this
41 bill)

42 e. **[**If a person who is not entitled to vote becomes registered to
43 vote pursuant to this section, that person's registration shall be
44 presumed to have been effected with official authorization, and the
45 person shall not be deemed to have committed a crime under
46 R.S.19:34-1. This subsection shall not apply to a person who
47 knowingly and willfully makes a false statement to effectuate voter

1 registration.】 (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending
2 before the Legislature as this bill)

3 f. 【The Secretary of State, with the assistance of the Chief
4 Administrator, shall take appropriate measures to educate the public
5 about voter registration under this section.】 (Deleted by
6 amendment, P.L. , c.) (pending before the Legislature as this
7 bill)

8 g. The Secretary of State and the Chief Administrator shall
9 jointly develop a process by which the Motor Vehicle Commission,
10 upon obtaining a person's full name, date of birth, driver's license
11 or state identification number, residence address, and mailing
12 address if different from residence address, may use information
13 from the statewide voter registration system to determine whether
14 the person is already registered to vote in the state.

15 【For the purposes of this section, "eligible applicant" means a
16 person submitting to the commission an application for a motor
17 vehicle driver's license, an examination permit, a probationary
18 driver's license, or a non-driver identification card who meets all
19 requirements for eligibility to vote under R.S.19:4-1.】

20 h. Each change of address notification submitted to the Chief
21 Administrator for the purpose of maintaining current information on
22 a person's motor vehicle license shall be promptly reported to the
23 Secretary of State. A change of address notification received by the
24 Chief Administrator in paper format shall be reported to the
25 Secretary of State no later than the 10th day following its receipt by
26 the Chief Administrator and shall serve as notification for the
27 change of address process. The commissioner of registration shall
28 use the change of address notification to update an existing voter
29 registration unless the registrant indicates that the change of address
30 is not for voter registration purposes. A change of address
31 notification submitted to the commission, which is used for voter
32 registration purposes, shall be subject to the provisions of section 1
33 of P.L.1994, c.148 (C.19:31-3.2), if the person submitting the
34 change of address notification previously registered to vote in
35 accordance with that section.

36 (cf: P.L.2025, c.204, s.6)

37

38 3. Section 23 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.39:3-10m) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 23. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary,
41 each applicant 【, who meets all requirements for eligibility to vote,】
42 for a State motor vehicle driver's license, an examination permit, a
43 probationary driver's license, or a non-driver identification card
44 application 【, including any application for a renewal or update
45 thereof, except as provided in paragraph (1) of subsection b. of
46 section 24 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.39:2-3.2),】 submitted to an agent
47 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, shall be offered an

1 opportunity to **decl**ine the automatic voter registration as provided
2 pursuant to section 24 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.39:2-3.2) **register to**
3 vote; provided that, in the course of business with the Motor
4 Vehicle Commission, the applicant provides or has provided
5 documentation demonstrating United States citizenship.
6 (cf: P.L.2025, c.204, s7)

7
8 4. Section 4 of P.L.2018, c.6 (C.19:31-6.14) is repealed.

9
10 5. This act shall take effect immediately but sections 2 and 3
11 shall remain inoperative until January 1, 2027; however, the
12 Secretary of State and the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
13 Motor Vehicle Commission shall take any administrative action in
14 advance of the operative date as necessary to implement the
15 provisions of this act.

16 17 18 STATEMENT

19
20 This bill eliminates automatic voter registration through various
21 State agencies, including the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC)
22 and restores the previous “opt-in” voter registration process.

23 Under current law, applicants for a motor vehicle driver's
24 license, an examination permit, a probationary driver's license, or a
25 non-driver identification card at the MVC are automatically
26 registered to vote or have an existing voter registration updated
27 unless the applicants decline. This bill eliminates automatic voter
28 registration and replaces it with an option to require applicants to
29 complete and submit a voter registration application in order to be
30 registered to vote while performing other transactions at the MVC
31 and other State agencies. This bill also requires an applicant to
32 provide documentary proof of United States citizenship to the MVC
33 as a condition of voter registration. This requirement applies only
34 when an applicant affirmatively elects to register to vote or update
35 an existing voter registration; it does not apply to applicants who
36 decline to register or who are completing a motor vehicle
37 transaction unrelated to voter registration.

38 This bill is introduced in response to Governor Mikie Sherrill's
39 public acknowledgement in July 2026 that a software error in the
40 MVC's automatic voter registration system resulted in
41 approximately 6,600 individuals who indicated in response to a
42 direct citizenship question that they were not United States citizens
43 nonetheless being registered to vote between June 2023 and June
44 2024, with approximately 400 of those individuals subsequently
45 cast ballots in New Jersey elections. While the Administration has
46 ordered an internal investigation, the removal of improperly
47 registered individuals from the voter rolls, and the replacement of
48 the MVC's technology vendor, it has not proposed ending

1 automatic voter registration itself. An “opt-in” registration process,
2 which requires an affirmative act by the applicant is a more reliable
3 safeguard for the accuracy of the State’s voter rolls than an
4 automatic registration system that depends on the State correctly
5 processing an “opt-out.” It also protects against intentional abuse
6 of the automatic registration system.

7 This bill repeals the provisions of current law related to
8 automatic voter registration.