

# STATE OF NEW YORK

4896

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. GOODELL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the tax law, the real property tax law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to enacting the "taxpayer voter registration act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "taxpayer voter registration act".

3 § 2. The tax law is amended by adding a new section 664 to read as  
4 follows:

5 § 664. Voter registration. The commissioner shall require that all  
6 income tax returns allow the taxpayer to register to vote by checking a  
7 box, to be included on the return, that indicates that the applicant  
8 would like to register to vote. Adjacent to such box, there shall be a  
9 statement in prominent type, "IF YOU CHECK THIS BOX, YOU SWEAR OR AFFIRM  
10 UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT (1) YOU ARE A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED  
11 STATES, (2) YOU WILL HAVE LIVED IN THE COUNTY, CITY OR VILLAGE LISTED AS  
12 YOUR ADDRESS ON YOUR TAX RETURN FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE NEXT  
13 ELECTION, (3) YOU MEET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS TO REGISTER, AND (4) YOUR  
14 SIGNATURE OR MARK IS AFFIXED TO THIS TAX RETURN OR IS ON FILE WITH THE  
15 NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE OR THE NEW YORK STATE  
16 DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES." The income tax returns shall also provide  
17 a means for the individual to select a political party affiliation, if  
18 so desired by the individual.

19 § 3. The real property tax law is amended by adding a new section 997  
20 to read as follows:

21 § 997. Voter registration; general. The taxing entity shall include on  
22 all tax bills issued under this chapter a check box, to be included on  
23 the bill, that indicates that the applicant would like to register to  
24 vote. Adjacent to such box, there shall be a statement in prominent

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 type, "IF YOU CHECK THIS BOX, YOU SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTIES OF  
2 PERJURY THAT (1) YOU ARE A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, (2) YOU WILL  
3 HAVE LIVED IN THE COUNTY, CITY OR VILLAGE LISTED AS YOUR ADDRESS ON YOUR  
4 TAX RETURN FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTION, (3) YOU MEET  
5 ALL THE REQUIREMENTS TO REGISTER, AND (4) YOUR SIGNATURE OR MARK IS  
6 AFFIXED TO THIS TAX RETURN OR IS ON FILE WITH THE NEW YORK STATE DEPART-  
7 MENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE OR THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR  
8 VEHICLES." The tax bill shall also provide a means for the individual to  
9 select a political party affiliation, if so desired by the individual.

10 § 4. The real property tax law is amended by adding a new section  
11 997-a to read as follows:

12 § 997-a. Voter registration; change of address. Upon a transfer of  
13 residential real property, the real estate transfer return filed with  
14 the commissioner and signed by the buyer of such residential real prop-  
15 erty shall include a check box, to be included on the form above the  
16 signature line with a statement in prominent type, "NOTICE TO GRANTEE:  
17 New York State Election Law requires you to reregister to vote if you  
18 change your address. By checking this box and signing and returning this  
19 form you will apply to vote under the address stated on this form unless  
20 you opt-out. If you are not a resident of the United States or New York  
21 State, you cannot check this box. By checking this box and signing below  
22 you swear or affirm under penalties of perjury that (1) you are a citi-  
23 zen of the United States, (2) you will have lived in the county, city or  
24 village listed as your address on your tax return for at least 30 days  
25 before the next election, (3) you meet all the requirements to register,  
26 and (4) your signature or mark is affixed to this tax return or is on  
27 file with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance or the  
28 New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. The real estate transfer  
29 return shall also provide a means for the individual to select a poli-  
30 tical party affiliation, if so desired by the individual."

31 § 5. The tax law is amended by adding a new section 45 to read as  
32 follows:

33 § 45. Voter registration. (a) The department shall electronically  
34 transmit to the state board of elections, and the state board of  
35 elections shall electronically transmit to local boards of election, to  
36 the extent such information is available, in a format that can be read  
37 by the computerized statewide voter registration list the following  
38 information for each person described in section six hundred sixty-four  
39 of this chapter and sections nine hundred ninety-seven and nine hundred  
40 ninety-seven-a of the real property tax law:

41 (i) whether such person checked the box to indicate a desire to regis-  
42 ter to vote;

43 (ii) given name or surname;

44 (iii) mailing address and residential address;

45 (iv) date of birth;

46 (v) evidence of United States citizenship, New York residence, and  
47 attestation of eligibility;

48 (vi) an electronic copy of the tax payer's signature; and

49 (vii) political party enrollment, if any.

50 (b) The state or local boards of elections shall:

51 (i) identify all individuals whose information is transmitted by the  
52 department pursuant to this section and who are eligible to be, but are  
53 not currently, registered to vote in the state; and

54 (ii) promptly send each such individual written notice and shall  
55 include:

56 (1) an explanation that voter registration is voluntary;

1 (2) a statement offering the individual the opportunity to enroll with  
2 a political party or to decline to enroll with a political party, if the  
3 individual has not already enrolled with a political party;

4 (3) the voter eligibility requirements and a statement that the indi-  
5 vidual must decline registration if they do not meet such requirements;

6 (4) a statement explaining that if the individual applies to register  
7 to vote electronically, such individual thereby consents to the use of  
8 an electronic copy of the individual's manual signature that is in the  
9 custody of the department of motor vehicles, the state board of  
10 elections or the local boards of election, as the individual's voter  
11 registration exemplar signature if the individual voter's exemplar  
12 signature is not provided with the voter registration application;

13 (5) a request for documentation of United States citizenship and New  
14 York state residency, as required by law or regulation;

15 (6) penalties for submission of false information for registration to  
16 vote; and

17 (7) instructions for correcting erroneous information.

18 (c) The notice required by paragraph (ii) of subdivision (b) of this  
19 section shall include a form that offers the individual the opportunity  
20 to elect to decline to register to vote and, in a separate section, the  
21 opportunity to enroll with a political party or to decline to enroll  
22 with a political party if the individual has not already selected a  
23 political party affiliation, a list of documents that can be used to  
24 establish the United States citizenship and New York residency, and a  
25 postage pre-paid envelope to return the form.

26 (d) The state board of elections shall prepare and distribute to the  
27 department written instructions as to the implementation of the  
28 provisions of this section and shall be responsible for establishing  
29 training programs for employees of the department.

30 (e) The agreement between the state board of elections and the depart-  
31 ment shall include the format in which information will be transmitted,  
32 the frequency of data transmissions, the procedures, and other measures  
33 that will be used to ensure the security and privacy of the information  
34 transmitted, and any other matter necessary or helpful to implement the  
35 requirements of this section.

36 (f) The department shall cooperate with the state board of elections  
37 and county boards of elections to facilitate the voter registration of  
38 each person described in this section, and to electronically transmit  
39 the information needed to register each such person to vote or to update  
40 each such person's voter registration record.

41 (g) The department shall enter into an agreement with the state board  
42 of elections finalizing the format and content of electronic trans-  
43 missions required by this section no later than September first, two  
44 thousand twenty-two; provided, that the department shall be able to  
45 comply fully with all requirements of this section, including the  
46 collection and transmission of all data required to register individuals  
47 to vote, by January first, two thousand twenty-three.

48 § 6. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section  
49 201-a to read as follows:

50 § 201-a. Voter registration. Upon the request of the state board of  
51 elections, the commissioner shall release an electronic version of the  
52 individual's manual signature that is in the custody of the department  
53 as the individual's voter registration exemplar signature for purposes  
54 of voter registration pursuant to sections forty-five and six hundred  
55 sixty-four of the tax law and sections nine hundred ninety-seven and  
56 nine hundred ninety-seven-a of the real property tax law.

1     § 7. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a  
2 law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of  
3 any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on  
4 its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before  
5 such effective date.