STATE OF NEW YORK

6173--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 31, 2023

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the election law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to joining multistate voter list maintenance organizations

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

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. As the official record of all eligible voters in a state, a state's voter registration rolls are the foundation of free, fair, and accurate elections. Illegal voting is exceedingly rare but maintaining accurate voter rolls reduces the opportunity for such behavior and it helps build confidence in election outcomes. However, keeping voter rolls up to date is a challenge because, every day, voters move or die. Voters do not always remember to update their registration when they move. These challenges are especially acute in states with large and highly mobile populations. Participation in a multistate voter list maintenance organization can improve the accuracy of New York's voter registration rolls. A multistate voter list maintenance organization is a coordinating entity between states that aids them in identifying voters who may no longer be eligible to vote, who have moved, or who have died. A voter list maintenance organization may also offer other information useful to improving voter registration or enhancing the integrity of election administration.

§ 2. Article 5 of the election law is amended by adding a new title 10 to read as follows:

TITLE X

MULTISTATE VOTER LIST MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP AUTHORIZATION

Section 5-1000. Joining a multistate voter list maintenance organization.

5-1001. Designating member representatives.

5-1002. Authorization to share registration records with multistate voter list maintenance organization.

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

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§ 5-1000. Joining a multistate voter list maintenance organization. The state board of elections may join the state as a member in one or more multistate voter list maintenance organizations including, but not limited to, the electronic registration information center or its successor. The commissioner is authorized to expend funds as available for membership fees, dues and other expenses related to such membership.

§ 5-1001. Designating member representatives. The state board of elections shall designate the co-executive directors of the state board of elections as the representatives to the board of directors of any multistate voter list maintenance organization that the state is a member of including, but not limited to, the electronic registration information center or its successor.

§ 5-1002. Authorization to share registration records with multistate voter list maintenance organization. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the member representatives designated under section 5-1001 of this title may provide to the multistate voter list maintenance organization that they are a member of the board of directors of the following information from the statewide voter registration list as defined in section 5-614 of this article:

(a) all name fields;

(b) all address fields;

(c) date of birth;

(d) state voter identification number;

(e) voter's last registration date;

(f) activity dates as defined by the multistate voter list maintenance organization's board of directors;

(g) affirmative documentation of citizenship, provided, however, no documentation shall be sent to any multistate voter list maintenance organization affirming that a person is not a citizen; and

(h) type of documentation of citizenship presented, if any.

2. The member representatives designated under section 5-1001 of this title may also provide any information to the multistate voter list maintenance organization provided to such member representatives from the department of motor vehicles pursuant to section two hundred nineteen-a of the vehicle and traffic law.

§ 3. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 219-a to read as follows:

§ 219-a. State membership in a multistate voter list maintenance organization. The commissioner is authorized to provide to the state's member representatives to a multistate voter list maintenance organization, designated under section 5-1001 of the election law, the following information: (a) all name fields; (b) all address fields; (c) affirmative documentation of citizenship; (d) type of documentation of citizenship presented; (e) DMV ID number; (f) last four digits of the DMV ID holder's social security number; (g) date of birth; (h) current record status; (i) phone number; and (j) e-mail address, provided that the conditions and terms of membership are consistent with the provisions of this chapter and title ten of article five of the election law pertaining to such membership or reciprocal recognition of vehicle registrations.

§ 4. New York state shall make good faith efforts to join a multistate voter list maintenance organization promptly after the effective date of this act and shall complete its registration with a multistate voter list maintenance organization on or before July 31, 2025.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.