

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2574

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 21, 2025

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Elections

AN ACT to amend the election law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to requiring a valid government issued photo identification card to be presented when casting a ballot

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

1 Section 1. Section 8-303 of the election law, as added by chapter 420  
2 of the laws of 2004, subparagraph 1 of paragraph (b) of subdivision 3 as  
3 amended by chapter 160 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 § 8-303. ~~[Initial voter]~~ Voter identification. 1. Applicability. Each  
6 board of elections, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner, shall  
7 require a voter to meet the requirements of subdivision two of this  
8 section ~~[if~~

9 ~~(a) the individual registered to vote in a jurisdiction by mail on or~~  
10 ~~after January first, two thousand three, and~~

11 ~~(b) the individual has not previously voted in an election for federal~~  
12 ~~office in the jurisdiction of the board of elections].~~

13 2. Requirements. (a) In general. An individual meets the requirements  
14 of this subdivision if the individual:

15 (1) in the case of an individual who votes in person~~[-(i)]~~, presents  
16 to the appropriate election inspector, clerk or coordinator a current  
17 and valid government issued photo identification~~[-or~~

18 ~~(ii) presents to the appropriate election inspector, clerk or coordi-~~  
19 ~~nator a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government~~  
20 ~~check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and~~  
21 ~~address of the voter]; or~~

22 (2) in the case of an individual who votes by mail, submits in the  
23 outer envelope with the envelope containing the ballot~~[-(i)]~~ a copy of  
24 a current and valid government issued photo identification~~[-or~~

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

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1 ~~(ii) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government~~  
2 ~~check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and~~  
3 ~~address of the voter].~~

4 (3) A valid and current government issued photo identification shall  
5 include: a New York state driver's license or non-driver ID; a United  
6 States passport; an identification card issued by a United States educa-  
7 tional institution; a United States military identification card; a  
8 government issued medical card or any identification card issued by the  
9 United States or the state of New York.

10 (b) Fail-safe voting. (1) An individual who desires to vote in person,  
11 but [~~who does not meet the requirements of subparagraph one of paragraph~~  
12 ~~(a) of this subdivision]~~ does not possess a current and valid government  
13 issued photo identification, may cast an affidavit ballot[~~, and notwith-~~  
14 ~~standing this section of law, such].~~ Such affidavit ballot shall be duly  
15 cast and counted[~~, even though such individual does not meet the~~  
16 ~~requirements of subparagraph one of paragraph (a) of this subdivision,~~  
17 provided such individual casting such ballot is an otherwise eligible  
18 voter pursuant to law, provided further that the individual produces to  
19 the local board of elections a valid and current government issued photo  
20 identification within three days of casting that ballot and that such  
21 ballot otherwise complies with the requirements of law.

22 (2) An individual who desires to vote by mail but who does not [~~meet~~  
23 ~~the requirements of subparagraph two of paragraph (a) of this subdivi-~~  
24 ~~sion]~~ possess a current and valid government issued photo identifica-  
25 tion, may cast such a ballot by mail and such ballot shall be duly cast  
26 and counted[~~, notwithstanding this section,~~] provided [~~the voter is~~  
27 ~~determined to be an eligible voter and provided further],~~ that the local  
28 board of elections determines the validity of the ballot by mail and  
29 that such ballot otherwise complies with the requirements of law.

30 3. Inapplicability. Subdivisions one and two of this section shall not  
31 apply in the case of a person: (a) who registers to vote by mail and  
32 submits as part of such registration [~~either:~~

33 ~~(1)]~~ a copy of a current and valid government issued photo identifica-  
34 tion; or

35 [~~(2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government~~  
36 ~~check, paycheck, or government document that shows the name and address~~  
37 ~~of the voter,]~~

38 (b) [~~(1)]~~ who registers to vote by mail and submits with such regis-  
39 tration either:

40 [~~(1)]~~ (1) a driver's license or a department of motor vehicles non-  
41 driver photo ID number; or

42 [~~(1)]~~ (2) at least the last four digits of the individual's social  
43 security number; and [~~(2)]~~ with respect to whom a local board of  
44 elections matches the information submitted under [~~subparagraph one of~~  
45 this paragraph with an existing state identification record bearing the  
46 number, name and date of birth of such voter; [~~or~~] and

47 [~~(e) who is: (1)]~~ (3) such person is entitled to vote by absentee  
48 ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42  
49 U.S.C. 1973ff-1 et seq.); and

50 [~~(2)]~~ (4) such person is provided the right to vote otherwise than in  
51 person under section 3 (b) (2) (B) (ii) of the Voting Accessibility for  
52 the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee-1 (b) (2) (B) (ii));  
53 or

54 [~~(3)]~~ (5) is entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other  
55 federal law.

1 § 2. Subdivision 2 of section 491 of the vehicle and traffic law is  
2 amended by adding a new paragraph (f) to read as follows:

3 (f) Any adult citizen whose income qualifies them for Medicaid, as  
4 verified in writing by the county's department of social services, shall  
5 not be required to pay any fee for an identification card. This  
6 provision shall not apply to identification cards described in paragraph  
7 (e) of this subdivision, which can be used for certain border crossings.

8 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.