ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 527–COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, PROCEDURES, AND ETHICS

(ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE)

MARCH 24, 2003

Referred to Committee on Elections, Procedures, and Ethics

SUMMARY—Makes various changes concerning elections. (BDR 24-413)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes. Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§§ 20, 35) (NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to elections; requiring the Secretary of State to establish a statewide voter registration list; establishing certain standards for voting systems; establishing the use of provisional ballots for elections for federal offices; changing the date by which a board of county commissioners and governing board of a city must conduct a canvass of the election returns following an election; changing the types of acceptable identification for certain persons voting for the first time; requiring the posting of certain information at each polling place; requiring county and city clerks to take certain actions to assist elderly persons and persons with disabilities in voting; changing the type of identification required to register to vote; making various changes concerning voting by persons who are in the Armed Forces or overseas; exempting the Secretary of State from the competitive bidding process for awarding certain contracts concerning the statewide voter registration list; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

- **Section 1.** Chapter 293 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act.
- Sec. 2. "Statewide voter registration list" means the list of registered voters established and maintained pursuant to section 3 of this act.
- Sec. 3. 1. The Secretary of State shall establish and maintain an official statewide voter registration list in consultation with each county and city clerk.
 - 2. The statewide voter registration list must:

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- (a) Be a uniform, centralized and interactive computerized list;
- (b) Serve as the single method for storing and managing the official list of registered voters in this state;
- (c) Serve as the official list of registered voters for the conduct of all elections in this state;
- (d) Contain the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in this state;
- (e) Include a unique identifier assigned by the Secretary of State to each legally registered voter in this state;
- (f) Be coordinated with the appropriate databases of other agencies in this state;
- (g) Be electronically accessible to each state and local election official in this state at all times;
 - (h) Be accessible from all polling places in this state;
- (i) Allow for data to be shared with other states under certain circumstances; and
- (j) Be regularly maintained to ensure the integrity of the registration process and the election process.
 - 3. Each county and city clerk shall:
- (a) Electronically enter into the statewide voter registration list all information related to voter registration obtained by the county or city clerk at the time the information is provided to the county or city clerk; and
- (b) Provide the Secretary of State with information concerning the voter registration of the county or city and any other information requested by the Secretary of State in the form required by the Secretary of State to establish or maintain the statewide voter registration list.
- 4. In establishing and maintaining the statewide voter registration list, the Secretary of State shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Department of Motor Vehicles to match information in the database of the statewide voter



registration list with information in the appropriate database of the Department of Motor Vehicles to verify the accuracy of the information in an application to register to vote.

5. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with the Social Security Administration pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, to verify the accuracy of information in an application to register to vote.

- Sec. 4. If a county or city uses paper ballots or punch cards in an election, including, without limitation, for absent ballots and ballots voted in a mailing precinct, the county or city clerk shall provide a voter education program specific to the voting system used by the county or city. The voter education program must include, without limitation, information concerning the effect of overvoting and the procedures for correcting a vote on a ballot before it is cast and counted and for obtaining a replacement ballot.
- Sec. 5. The Secretary of State and each county and city clerk shall ensure that each voting system used in this state:
- 1. Secures to the voter privacy and independence in the act of voting, including, without limitation, confidentiality of the ballot of the voter;
- 2. Allows each voter to verify privately and independently the votes selected by the voter on the ballot before the ballot is cast and counted;
- 3. Provides each voter with the opportunity, in a private and independent manner, to change the ballot and to correct any error before the ballot is cast and counted, including, without limitation, the opportunity to correct an error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter is otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct the error;
- 4. Provides a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity which must be available as an official record for a recount; and
- 5. Meets or exceeds the standards for voting systems established by the Federal Election Commission, including, without limitation, the error rate standards.
- Sec. 6. 1. Each voting system used by a county or city shall provide voting materials in English and other languages in compliance with the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a.
- 2. As used in this section, the term "voting materials" has the meaning ascribed to it in 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a.
- Sec. 7. A person at a polling place may cast a provisional ballot in an election to vote for a candidate for federal office if the person complies with the applicable provisions of section 8 of this act and:



1. Declares that he has registered to vote and is eligible to vote at that election for federal office in that jurisdiction, but his name does not appear on the statewide voter registration list as a voter eligible to vote in the election in that jurisdiction;

2. Applies by mail to register to vote and has not previously voted in an election for federal office in this state and fails to provide the identification required pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of section 10 of this act to the election board officer

at the polling place; or

- 3. Declares that he is entitled to vote after the polling place would normally close as a result of a court order or other order extending the time established for the closing of polls pursuant to a law of this state in effect 10 days before the date of the election.
- Sec. 8. 1. Before a person may cast a provisional ballot pursuant to section 7 of this act, the person must complete a written affirmation on a form provided by an election board officer at the polling place which includes:
 - (a) The name of the person casting the provisional ballot;

(b) The reason for casting the provisional ballot;

(c) A statement in which the person casting the provisional ballot affirms under penalty of perjury that he is a registered voter in the jurisdiction and is eligible to vote in the election;

(d) The date and type of election;

(e) The signature of the person casting the provisional ballot;

(f) The signature of the election board officer;

- (g) A unique affirmation identification number assigned to the person casting the provisional ballot;
- (h) If the person is casting the provisional ballot pursuant to subsection 1 of section 7 of this act:
- (1) An indication by the person as to whether or not he provided the required identification at the time he applied to register to vote;
- (2) The address of the person as listed on his application to register to vote;
- (3) Information concerning the place, manner and approximate date on which the person applied to register to vote;

(4) Any other information that the person believes may be useful in verifying that the person has registered to vote; and

(5) A statement informing the voter that the required identification must be provided to the county or city clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the Tuesday following election day and that failure

(i) If the person is casting the provisional ballot pursuant to subsection 2 of section 7 of this act:

to do so will result in the provisional ballot not being counted;



(1) The address of the person as listed on his application to register to vote;

- (2) The voter registration number, if any, issued to the person; and
- (3) A statement informing the voter that the required identification must be provided to the county or city clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the Tuesday following election day and that failure to do so will result in the provisional ballot not being counted; and
- (j) If the person is casting the provisional ballot pursuant to subsection 3 of section 7 of this act, the voter registration number, if any, issued to the person.
- 12 2. After a person completes a written affirmation pursuant to 13 subsection 1:
 - (a) The election board officer shall provide the person with a receipt that includes the unique affirmation identification number described in subsection 1 and that explains how the person may use the free access system established pursuant to section 13 of this act to ascertain whether his vote was counted, and, if not, the reason why the vote was not counted;
 - (b) The voter's name and applicable information must be entered into the roster in a manner which indicates that the voter cast a provisional ballot; and
 - (c) The election board officer shall issue a provisional ballot to the person to vote only for federal offices.
 - **Sec. 9.** A person may cast a ballot by mail to vote for a candidate for federal office which must be treated as a provisional ballot by the city or county clerk if the person:
 - 1. Applies by mail to register to vote and has not previously voted in an election for federal office in this state;
 - 2. Fails to provide the identification required pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of section 10 of this act to the county or city clerk at the time that he mails his ballot; and
 - 3. Completes the written affirmation set forth in subsection 1 of section 8 of this act.
 - Sec. 10. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, in sections 7 and 9 of this act and in federal law, a person who, registers by mail to vote in this state and who has not previously voted in an election for federal office in this state:
 - (a) May vote at a polling place only if the person presents to the election board officer at the polling place:
 - (1) A current and valid photo identification of the person; or
 - (2) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or document issued by a governmental entity, including,



without limitation, a check, which indicates the name and address of the person; and

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- (b) May vote by mail only if the person provides to the county or city clerk:
- (1) A copy of a current and valid photo identification of the person; or
- (2) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or document issued by a governmental entity, including, without limitation, a check, which indicates the name and address of the person.
- 2. The provisions of this section do not apply to a person who:
- (a) Registers to vote by mail and submits with his application to register to vote:
 - (1) A copy of a current and valid photo identification; or
- (2) A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or document issued by a governmental entity, including, without limitation, a check, which indicates the name and address of the person;
- (b) Registers to vote by mail and submits with his application to register to vote a driver's license number or at least the last four digits of his social security number, if a state or local election official has matched that information with an existing identification record bearing the same number, name and date of birth as provided by the person in his application;
- (c) Is entitled to vote an absent ballot pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973ff et seq.;
- (d) Is provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973ee et seq.; or
- (e) Is entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other federal law.
- Sec. 11. Each county and city clerk shall establish procedures to:
- 1. Keep each provisional ballot cast pursuant to section 7 or 9 of this act separate from other ballots until it has been determined whether or not the voter was registered and eligible to vote in the election in that jurisdiction;
- 40 2. Keep each provisional ballot cast pursuant to subsection 3 41 of section 7 of this act separate from all other provisional ballots; 42 and
- 3. Inform a person whose name does not appear on the statewide voter registration list as an eligible voter for a polling place or who an election official asserts is not eligible to vote at



the polling place, of the ability of the person to cast a provisional ballot.

- Sec. 12. 1. Following each election, a canvass of the provisional ballots cast in the election must be conducted pursuant to NRS 293.387 and, if appropriate, pursuant to NRS 293C.387.
 - 2. The county and city clerk shall not:

- (a) Include any provisional ballot in the unofficial results reported on election night; or
- (b) Open any envelope containing a provisional ballot before 8 a.m. on the Wednesday following election day.
 - 3. A provisional ballot must be counted if:
- (a) The county or city clerk determines that the person who cast the provisional ballot was registered to vote in the election, eligible to vote in the election and issued the appropriate ballot for the address at which he resides;
- (b) A voter who failed to provide required identification at the polling place or with his mailed ballot provides the required identification to the county or city clerk not later than 5 p.m. on the Tuesday following election day; or
- (c) A court order has not been issued by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday following election day directing that provisional ballots cast pursuant subsection 3 of section 7 of this act not be counted, and the provisional ballot was cast pursuant to subsection 3 of section 7 of this act.
- Sec. 13. 1. The Secretary of State shall establish a free access system such as a toll-free telephone number or an Internet website to inform a person who cast a provisional ballot whether his vote was counted and, if not, the reason who the vote was not counted.
- 2. The free access system must ensure secrecy of the ballot while protecting the confidentiality and integrity of personal information contained therein.
- 3. Access to information concerning a provisional ballot must be restricted to the person who cast the provisional ballot.
- Sec. 14. The Secretary of State and each county and city clerk shall ensure that a copy of each of the following is posted in a conspicuous place at each polling place on election day:
 - 1. A sample ballot;
- 2. Information concerning the date and hours of operation of the polling place;
- 3. Instructions for voting and casting a ballot, including a provisional ballot;
- 4. Instructions concerning the identification required for persons who by mail apply for the first time to register to vote;



- 5. Information concerning the accessibility of polling places to persons with disabilities; and
- 6. General information concerning federal and state laws which prohibit acts of fraud and misrepresentation.

Sec. 15. 1. The Secretary of State shall:

- (a) Provide information regarding voter registration and absentee voting by Armed Forces personnel and overseas voters;
- (b) Within 90 days after the date of each general election and general city election in which electors voted for federal offices, submit to the Election Assistance Commission established pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, a report of the combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to absent Armed Forces personnel and overseas voters for the election and the combined number of such ballots that were returned by such voters and cast in the election;
- (c) Make each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) available to the public; and
- (d) Adopt any regulations which are necessary to comply with the provisions of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, and which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter to the extent the provisions of this chapter are consistent with the Help American Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252.
- 2. Each county and city clerk shall provide such information as is requested by the Secretary of State to comply with the provisions of this section.
 - **Sec. 16.** NRS 293.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.010 As used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 293.013 to 293.121, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
- Sec. 17. NRS 293.1279 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293.1279 1. If the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures filed is 90 percent or more, but less than the sum of 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient plus the total number of requests to remove a name received by the county clerks pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015, the Secretary of State shall order the county clerks to examine the signatures for verification. The county clerks shall examine the signatures for verification until they determine that 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to declare the petition sufficient are valid. If the county clerks received a request to remove a name pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015, the county clerks may not determine that 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to



declare the petition sufficient are valid until they have removed each name as requested pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015.

- 2. If the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures filed in any county is 90 percent or more but less than the sum of 100 percent of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to constitute 10 percent of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in that county plus the total number of requests to remove a name received by the county clerk in that county pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015, the Secretary of State may order the county clerk in that county to examine every signature for verification. If the county clerk received a request to remove a name pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015, the county clerk may not determine that 100 percent or more of the number of signatures of registered voters needed to constitute 10 percent of the number of voters who voted at the last preceding general election in that county are valid until he has removed each name as requested pursuant to NRS 295.055 or 306.015.
- 3. Within 12 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after receipt of such an order, the *county* clerk shall determine from the records of registration what number of registered voters have signed the petition. If necessary, the board of county commissioners shall allow the county clerk additional assistants for examining the signatures and provide for their compensation. In determining from the records of registration what number of registered voters have signed the petition, the *county* clerk may use any file or list of registered voters maintained by his office, *the statewide voter registration list* or *any* facsimiles of voters' signatures. The county clerk may rely on the appearance of the signature and the address and date included with each signature in determining the number of registered voters that signed the petition.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, upon completing the examination, the county clerk shall immediately attach to the documents of the petition an amended certificate, properly dated, showing the result of the examination and shall immediately forward the documents with the amended certificate to the Secretary of State. A copy of the amended certificate must be filed in the county clerk's office.
- 5. For any petition containing signatures which are required to be verified pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.165, 293.200, 306.035 or 306.110 for any county, district or municipal office within one county, the county clerk shall not forward to the Secretary of State the documents containing the signatures of the registered voters.
- 6. Except for a petition to recall a county, district or municipal officer, the petition shall be deemed filed with the Secretary of State



as of the date on which he receives certificates from the county clerks showing the petition to be signed by the requisite number of voters of the State.

7. If the amended certificates received from all county clerks by the Secretary of State establish that the petition is still insufficient, he shall immediately so notify the petitioners and the county clerks. If the petition is a petition to recall a county, district or municipal officer, the Secretary of State shall also notify the officer with whom the petition is to be filed.

Sec. 18. NRS 293.272 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.272 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 [.] and in sections 9 and 10 of this act, a person who registered to vote pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.5235, shall, for the first election in which he votes at which that registration is valid, vote in person unless he has previously voted in the county in which he is registered to vote.

- 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a person who:
- (a) Is entitled to vote in the manner prescribed in NRS 293.343 to 293.355, inclusive;
- (b) Is entitled to vote an absent ballot pursuant to federal law or NRS 293.316 or 293.3165;
 - (c) Is disabled;

- (d) Submits or has previously submitted a written request for an absent ballot that is signed by the registered voter before a notary public or other person authorized to administer an oath; or
- (e) Requests an absent ballot in person at the office of the county clerk.

Sec. 19. NRS 293.277 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.277 1. If a person's name appears in the election board register or if he provides an affirmation pursuant to NRS 293.525, he is entitled to vote and must sign his name in the election board register when he applies to vote. His signature must be compared by an election board officer with the signature or a facsimile thereof on his original application to register to vote or one of the forms of identification listed in subsection 2.

- 2. [The] Except as otherwise provided in section 10 of this act, the forms of identification which may be used individually to identify a voter at the polling place are:
 - (a) The card issued to the voter at the time he registered to vote;
 - (b) A driver's license;
- (c) An identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- (d) A military identification card; or



- (e) Any other form of identification issued by a governmental agency which contains the voter's signature and physical description or picture.
 - **Sec. 20.** NRS 293.2955 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.2955 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, at all times during which a polling place is open, the polling place must:
- (a) Be accessible to a voter who is elderly or [disabled;] a voter with a disability; and
 - (b) Have at least one voting booth that is:

- (1) Designed to allow a voter in a wheelchair to vote;
- (2) Designated for use by a voter who is elderly or [disabled; and] a voter with a disability;
- (3) Equipped to allow a voter who is elderly or [disabled] a voter with a disability to vote with the same privacy as a voter who is not elderly or [disabled.] as a voter without a disability; and
- (4) Equipped with a mechanical recording device which directly records the votes electronically and which may be used by a voter with a disability.
- 2. A polling place that does not comply with the provisions of subsection 1 may be used if necessary because of a natural disaster, including, without limitation, an earthquake, flood, fire or storm.
- 3. At each polling place, the county clerk [is encouraged to:] shall:
- (a) Post in a conspicuous place, in at least 12-point type, instructions for voting;
- (b) Provide ballots in alternative audio and visual formats for use by a voter who is elderly or [disabled;] a voter with a disability; and
- (c) Provide, in alternative audio and visual formats for use by a voter who is elderly or [disabled,] a voter with a disability, all materials that are:
 - (1) Related to the election; and
- (2) Made available to a voter in printed form at the polling place.
 - **Sec. 21.** NRS 293.313 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.313 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.272 and 293.502, a registered voter who provides sufficient written notice to the county clerk may vote an absent ballot as provided in this chapter.
 - 2. A registered voter who:
 - (a) Is at least 65 years of age; or
- (b) Has a physical disability or condition which substantially impairs his ability to go to the polling place,



may request an absent ballot for all elections held during the year he requests an absent ballot. The registered voter must include in his request a description of his physical disability or condition.

- 3. As used in this section, "sufficient written notice" means a:
- (a) Written request for an absent ballot which is signed by the registered voter and returned to the county clerk in person or by mail or facsimile machine;
- (b) Form prescribed by the Secretary of State which is completed and signed by the registered voter and returned to the county clerk in person or by mail or facsimile machine; or
 - (c) Form provided by the Federal Government.

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- 4. A county clerk shall consider a request from a voter who has given sufficient written notice on a form provided by the Federal Government as [a]:
- (a) A request for both the primary and general elections unless otherwise specified in the request $\{\cdot,\cdot\}$; and
- (b) A request for an absent ballot for the two primary and general elections immediately following the date on which the county clerk received the request.
- 5. It is unlawful for a person fraudulently to request an absent ballot in the name of another person or to induce or coerce another person fraudulently to request an absent ballot in the name of another person. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.
 - **Sec. 22.** NRS 293.320 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.320 1. The county clerk shall determine before issuing an absent ballot that the person making application is a registered voter in the proper county.
- 2. Armed Forces personnel who are not registered to vote and are applying for absent ballots must complete:
- (a) The application to register to vote required by NRS 293.517 for registration; or
- (b) The form provided by the Federal Government for registration and request of an absent ballot, before receiving an absent ballot.
- 3. If the county clerk rejects an application submitted pursuant to subsection 2 or submitted by an overseas voter, the county clerk shall inform the applicant of the reason for the rejection.
 - **Sec. 23.** NRS 293.387 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.387 1. As soon as the returns from all the precincts and districts in any county have been received by the board of county commissioners, the board shall meet and canvass the returns. The



canvass must be completed on or before the **[fifth]** *10th* working day following the election.

2. In making its canvass, the board shall:

- (a) Note separately any clerical errors discovered; and
- (b) Take account of the changes resulting from the discovery \[\frac{1}{2} \] so that the result declared represents the true vote cast.
- 3. The county clerk shall, as soon as the result is declared, enter upon the records of the board an abstract of the result [.] which must contain the number of votes cast for each candidate. The board, after making the abstract, shall cause the county clerk to certify the abstract and, by an order made and entered in the minutes of its proceedings, to make:
 - (a) A copy of the certified abstract; and
- (b) A mechanized report of the abstract in compliance with regulations adopted by the Secretary of State,
- and transmit them to the Secretary of State not more than 6 working days after the election.
- 4. The Secretary of State shall, immediately after any primary election, compile the returns for all candidates voted for in more than one county. He shall make out and file in his office an abstract thereof, and shall certify to the county clerk of each county the name of each person nominated [,] and the name of the office for which he is nominated.
 - **Sec. 24.** NRS 293.505 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.505 1. All justices of the peace, except those located in county seats, are ex officio field registrars to carry out the provisions of this chapter.
- 2. The county clerk shall appoint at least one registered voter to serve as a field registrar of voters who, except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.5055, shall register voters within the county for which he is appointed. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 1, a candidate for any office may not be appointed or serve as a field registrar. A field registrar serves at the pleasure of the county clerk and shall perform his duties as the county clerk may direct.
- 3. A field registrar shall demand of any person who applies for registration all information required by the application to register to vote and shall administer all oaths required by this chapter.
- 4. When a field registrar has in his possession five or more completed applications to register to vote he shall forward them to the county clerk, but in no case may he hold any number of them for more than 10 days.
- 5. Immediately after the close of registration, each field registrar shall forward to the county clerk all completed applications in his possession. Within 5 days after the close of registration for a general election or general city election, a field registrar shall return



all unused applications in his possession to the county clerk. If all of the unused applications are not returned to the county clerk, the field registrar shall account for the unreturned applications.

- 6. Each field registrar shall submit to the county clerk a list of the serial numbers of the completed applications to register to vote and the names of the electors on those applications. The serial numbers must be listed in numerical order.
- 7. Each field registrar shall post notices sent to him by the county clerk for posting in accordance with the election laws of this state.
- 8. A field registrar, employee of a voter registration agency or person assisting a voter pursuant to subsection [10] 12 of NRS 293.5235 shall not:
 - (a) Delegate any of his duties to another person; or
- (b) Refuse to register a person on account of that person's political party affiliation.
- 9. A person shall not hold himself out to be or attempt to exercise the duties of a field registrar unless he has been so appointed.
- 10. A county clerk, field registrar, employee of a voter registration agency or person assisting a voter pursuant to subsection [10] 12 of NRS 293.5235 shall not:
- (a) Solicit a vote for or against a particular question or candidate;
- (b) Speak to a voter on the subject of marking his ballot for or against a particular question or candidate; or
- (c) Distribute any petition or other material concerning a candidate or question which will be on the ballot for the ensuing election,
- while he is registering an elector.

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- 11. When the county clerk receives applications to register to vote from a field registrar, he shall issue a receipt to the field registrar. The receipt must include:
 - (a) The number of persons registered; and
 - (b) The political party of the persons registered.
- 12. A county clerk, field registrar, employee of a voter registration agency or person assisting a voter pursuant to subsection [10] 12 of NRS 293.5235 shall not:
- (a) Knowingly register a person who is not a qualified elector or a person who has filed a false or misleading application to register to vote:
- (b) Alter or deface an application to register to vote that has been signed by an elector except to correct information contained in the application after receiving notice from the elector that a change in or addition to the information is required; or



(c) Register a person who fails to provide satisfactory proof of identification and the address at which he actually resides.

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- 13. If a field registrar violates any of the provisions of this section, the county clerk shall immediately suspend the field registrar and notify the district attorney of the county in which the violation occurred.
- 14. A person who violates any of the provisions of subsection 8, 9, 10 or 12 is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.
 - **Sec. 25.** NRS 293.507 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293.507

 1. The Secretary of State shall prescribe:
 - (a) A standard form for applications to register to vote; and
- (b) A special form for registration to be used in a county where registrations are performed and records of registration are kept by computer.
- 2. The county clerks shall provide forms for applications to register to vote to field registrars in the form and number prescribed by the Secretary of State.
- 3. A form for an application to register to vote must include a duplicate copy or receipt to be retained by the applicant upon completion of the form.
 - 4. The form for an application to register to vote must include:
 - (a) A line for use by the county clerk to enter [the number:
 - (1) Indicated on the voter's social security card,]:
- (1) The number indicated on the voter's current and valid driver's license [or identification card] issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, [or any other identification card issued by an agency of this state or the Federal Government that contains:
 - (I) An identifying number; and
 - (II) A photograph or physical description of the voter; or
 - (2) Issued] if the voter has such a driver's license;
- (2) The last four digits of the voter's social security number, if the voter does not have a driver's license issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles and does have a social security number; or
- (3) The number issued to the voter pursuant to subsection 5 [...], if the person does not have a current and valid driver's license issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or a social security number.
- (b) A line on which to enter the address at which the voter actually resides, as set forth in NRS 293.486.
- (c) A notice that the voter may not list a business as the address required pursuant to paragraph (b) unless he actually resides there.



- (d) A line on which to enter an address at which the voter may receive mail, including, without limitation, a post office box or general delivery.
 - 5. If a voter does not :

- (a) Possess any of have the identification set forth in subparagraph (1) or (2) of paragraph (a) of subsection 4 [; or
- (b) Wish to provide to the county clerk the number indicated on that identification,],

the voter shall sign an affidavit stating that he does not have a current and valid driver's license issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles or a social security number. Upon receipt of the affidavit, the county clerk shall issue an identification number to the voter [.] which must be the same number as the unique identifier assigned to the voter for purposes of the statewide voter registration list.

6. The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of subsections 4 and 5.

Sec. 26. NRS 293.517 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293.517

1. Any elector residing within the county may register:

- (a) By appearing before the county clerk, *a* field registrar or a voter registration agency, completing the application to register to vote, [and] giving true and satisfactory answers to all questions relevant to his identity and right to vote [;], and providing proof of his residence and identity;
- (b) By completing and mailing or personally delivering to the county clerk an application to register to vote pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.5235;
 - (c) Pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.501 or 293.524; or
- (d) At his residence with the assistance of a field registrar pursuant to NRS 293.5237.

The county clerk shall require a person to submit official identification as proof of residence and identity, such as a driver's license or other official document, before registering him. If the applicant registers to vote pursuant to this subsection and fails to provide proof of his residence and identity, the applicant must provide proof of his residence and identity before casting a ballot in person or by mail or after casting a provisional ballot pursuant to section 7 or 9 of this act.

- 2. The application to register to vote must be signed and verified under penalty of perjury by the elector registering.
- 3. Each elector who is or has been married must be registered under his own given or first name, and not under the given or first name or initials of his spouse.



- 4. An elector who is registered and changes his name must complete a new application to register to vote. He may obtain a new application:
 - (a) At the office of the county clerk or field registrar;
- (b) By submitting an application to register to vote pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.5235;
- (c) By submitting a written statement to the county clerk requesting the county clerk to mail an application to register to vote; or
 - (d) At any voter registration agency.

- If the elector fails to register under his new name, he may be challenged pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.303 or 293C.292 and may be required to furnish proof of identity and subsequent change of name.
- 5. An elector who registers to vote pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1 shall be deemed to be registered upon the completion of his application to register to vote.
- 6. After the county clerk determines that the application to register to vote of a person is complete and that the person is eligible to vote, he shall issue a voter registration card to the voter which contains:
- (a) The name, address, political affiliation and precinct number of the voter;
 - (b) The date of issuance; and
 - (c) The signature of the county clerk.
 - **Sec. 27.** NRS 293.5235 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 293.5235 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.502, a person may register to vote by mailing an application to register to vote to the county clerk of the county in which he resides. The county clerk shall, upon request, mail an application to register to vote to an applicant. The county clerk shall make the applications available at various public places in the county. An application to register to vote may be used to correct information in the registrar of voters' register.
- 2. An application to register to vote which is mailed to an applicant by the county clerk or made available to the public at various locations or voter registration agencies in the county may be returned to the county clerk by mail or in person. For the purposes of this section, an application which is personally delivered to the county clerk shall be deemed to have been returned by mail.
- 3. The applicant must complete the application, including, without limitation, checking the boxes described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection 9 and [sign] signing the application.
- 4. The county clerk shall, upon receipt of an application, determine whether the application is complete.



5. If he determines that the application is complete, he shall, within 10 days after he receives the application, mail to the applicant:

- (a) A notice informing him that he is registered to vote and a voter registration card as required by subsection 6 of NRS 293.517; or
- (b) A notice informing him that the registrar of voters' register has been corrected to reflect any changes indicated on the application.

The applicant shall be deemed to be registered or to have corrected the information in the register as of the date the application is postmarked or personally delivered.

- 6. If the county clerk determines that the application is not complete, he shall, as soon as possible, mail a notice to the applicant informing him that additional information is required to complete the application. If the applicant provides the information requested by the county clerk within 15 days after the county clerk mails the notice, the county clerk shall, within 10 days after he receives the information, mail to the applicant:
- (a) A notice informing him that he is registered to vote and a voter registration card as required by subsection 6 of NRS 293.517; or
- (b) A notice informing him that the registrar of voters' register has been corrected to reflect any changes indicated on the application.

The applicant shall be deemed to be registered or to have corrected the information in the register as of the date the application is postmarked or personally delivered. If the applicant does not provide the additional information within the prescribed period, the application is void.

- 7. If the applicant fails to check the box described in paragraph (b) of subsection 9, the application shall not be considered invalid and the county clerk shall provide a means for the applicant to correct the omission at the time the applicant appears to vote in person at his assigned polling place.
- **8.** The Secretary of State shall prescribe the form for an application to register to vote by mail which must be used to register to vote by mail in this state.
 - 9. The application to register to vote by mail must include [a]:
 - (a) A notice in at least 10-point type which states:

NOTICE: You are urged to return your application to register to vote to the County Clerk in person or by mail. If you choose to give your completed application to another person to return to the County Clerk on your behalf, and the



person fails to deliver the application to the County Clerk, you will not be registered to vote. Please retain the duplicate copy or receipt from your application to register to vote.

- [8.] (b) The question, "Are you a citizen of the United States?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether or not the applicant is a citizen of the United States.
- (c) The question, "Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before election day?" and boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether or not he will be at least 18 years of age or older on election day.
- (d) A statement instructing the applicant not to complete the application if he checked "no" in response to the question set forth in paragraph (b) or (c).
- (e) A statement informing the applicant that if the application is submitted by mail and the applicant is registering to vote for the first time, the applicant must submit the information set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of section 10 of this act to avoid the requirements of subsection 1 of section 10 of this act upon voting for the first time.
- 10. The county clerk shall not register a person to vote pursuant to this section unless that person has provided all of the information required by the application.
- [9.] 11. The county clerk shall mail, by postcard, the notices required pursuant to subsections 5 and 6. If the postcard is returned to the county clerk by the United States Postal Service because the address is fictitious or the person does not live at that address, the county clerk shall attempt to determine whether the person's current residence is other than that indicated on his application to register to vote in the manner set forth in NRS 293.530.
- [10.] 12. A person who, by mail, registers to vote pursuant to this section may be assisted in completing the application to register to vote by any other person. The application must include the mailing address and signature of the person who assisted the applicant. The failure to provide the information required by this subsection will not result in the application being deemed incomplete.
- [11.] 13. An application to register to vote must be made available to all persons, regardless of political party affiliation.
- [12.] 14. An application must not be altered or otherwise defaced after the applicant has completed and signed it. An application must be mailed or delivered in person to the office of the county clerk within 10 days after it is completed.



[13.] 15. A person who willfully violates any of the provisions of subsection [10, 11 or] 12, 13 or 14 is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.

[14.] 16. The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

Sec. 28. NRS 293.530 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.530 1. County clerks may use any reliable and reasonable means available to correct the [official registration lists] portions of the statewide voter registration list which are relevant to the county clerks and to determine whether a registered voter's current residence is other than that indicated on his application to register to vote.

- 2. A county clerk may, with the consent of the board of county commissioners, make investigations of registration in the county by census, by house-to-house canvass or by any other method.
- 3. A county clerk shall cancel the registration of a voter pursuant to this section if:
- (a) He mails a written notice to the voter which the United States Postal Service is required to forward;
- (b) He mails a return postcard with the notice which has a place for the voter to write his new address, is addressed to the county clerk and has postage guaranteed;
 - (c) The voter does not respond; and

- (d) The voter does not appear to vote in an election before the polls have closed in the second general election following the date of the notice.
- 4. For the purposes of this section, the date of the notice is deemed to be 3 days after it is mailed.
 - 5. The county clerk shall maintain records of:
 - (a) Any notice mailed pursuant to subsection 3;
 - (b) Any response to such notice; and
- (c) Whether a person to whom a notice is mailed appears to vote in an election,
- for not less than 2 years after creation.
- 6. The county clerk shall use any postcards which are returned to correct the [official registration lists.] portions of the statewide voter registration list which are relevant to the county clerk.
- 7. If a voter fails to return the postcard mailed pursuant to subsection 3 within 30 days, the county clerk shall designate the voter as inactive on his application to register to vote.
- 8. The Secretary of State shall adopt regulations to prescribe the method for maintaining a list of voters who have been designated as inactive pursuant to subsection 7.



Sec. 29. NRS 293.5303 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293.5303 In addition to the methods described in NRS 293.530, the county clerk in each county may enter into an agreement with the United States Postal Service or any person authorized by it to obtain the data compiled by the United States Postal Service concerning changes of addresses of its postal patrons for use by the county clerk to correct the portions of the statewide voter registration [lists.] list relevant to the county clerk.

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Sec. 30. NRS 293.5307 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293.5307 If a county clerk enters into an agreement pursuant to NRS 293.5303, he shall review each notice of a change of address filed with the United States Postal Service by a resident of the county and identify each resident who is a registered voter and has moved to a new address. Before removing or correcting information in the [official] statewide voter registration list, the county clerk shall mail a notice to each such registered voter and follow the procedures set forth in NRS 293.530.

Sec. 31. NRS 293B.063 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293B.063 [1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, no No mechanical voting system may be used in this state unless it meets or exceeds the standards for voting systems established by the Federal Election Commission.

[2. A mechanical voting system that does not comply with the standards established by the Federal Election Commission for computers or software for computers may be used if it is demonstrated to the Secretary of State that the system performs all functions required by the commission.]

Sec. 32. NRS 293B.065 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293B.065 A mechanical voting system must secure to the voter [secrecy] privacy and independence in the act of voting.

Sec. 33. NRS 293B.084 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293B.084 A mechanical recording device which directly records votes electronically must:

- 1. Bear a number which identifies that mechanical recording device.
 - Be equipped with a storage device which: 2.
 - (a) Stores the ballots voted on the mechanical recording device;
- 38 (b) Can be removed from the mechanical recording device for 39 the purpose of transporting the ballots stored therein to a central 40 counting place; and 41
 - (c) Bears the same number as the mechanical recording device.
 - 3. Be designed in such a manner that voted ballots may be stored within the mechanical recording device and the storage device required pursuant to subsection 2 at the same time.
 - 4. Provide a record printed on paper of:



- (a) Each ballot voted on the mechanical recording device; and
- (b) The total number of votes recorded on the mechanical recording device for each candidate and for or against each measure.
- 5. The paper record described in subsection 4 must be made available for a manual audit and must serve as an official record for a recount.
- **Sec. 34.** NRS 293C.265 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293C.265 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 [,] and in sections 9 and 10 of this act, a person who registered to vote pursuant to the provisions of NRS 293.5235, shall, for the first city election in which he votes at which that registration is valid, vote in person unless he has previously voted in the county in which he is registered to vote.
 - 2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to a person who:
- (a) Is entitled to vote in the manner prescribed in NRS 293C.342 to 293C.352, inclusive;
- (b) Is entitled to vote an absent ballot pursuant to federal law or NRS 293C.317 or 293C.318;
 - (c) Is disabled;

- (d) Submits or has previously submitted a written request for an absent ballot that is signed by the registered voter before a notary public or other person authorized to administer an oath; or
- (e) Requests an absent ballot in person at the office of the city clerk.
- **Sec. 35.** NRS 293C.281 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293C.281 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, at all times during which a polling place is open, the polling place must:
- (a) Be accessible to a voter who is elderly or [disabled;] a voter with a disability; and
 - (b) Have at least one voting booth that is:
 - (1) Designed to allow a voter in a wheelchair to vote;
- (2) Designated for use by a voter who is elderly or [disabled; and] a voter with a disability;
- (3) Equipped to allow a voter who is elderly or [disabled] a voter with a disability to vote with the same privacy as a voter who is not elderly or [disabled.] as a voter without a disability; and
- (4) Equipped with a mechanical recording device which directly records the votes electronically and which may be used by persons with disabilities.
- 2. A polling place that does not comply with the provisions of subsection 1 may be used if necessary because of a natural disaster, including, without limitation, an earthquake, flood, fire or storm.
- 3. At each polling place, the city clerk [is encouraged to:] shall:



- (a) Post in a conspicuous place, in at least 12-point type, instructions for voting;
- (b) Provide ballots in alternative audio and visual formats for use by a voter who is elderly or [disabled;] a voter with a disability; and
- (c) Provide, in alternative audio and visual formats for use by a voter who is elderly or [disabled,] a voter with a disability, all materials that are:
 - (1) Related to the election; and
- (2) Made available to a voter in printed form at the polling place.
- **Sec. 36.** NRS 293C.310 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293C.310 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293.502 and 293C.265, a registered voter who provides sufficient written notice to the city clerk may vote an absent ballot as provided in this chapter.
 - 2. A registered voter who:

- (a) Is at least 65 years of age; or
- (b) Has a physical disability or condition that substantially impairs his ability to go to the polling place, may request an absent ballot for all elections held during the year he requests an absent ballot. The registered voter must include in his
- request a description of his physical disability or condition.

 3. As used in this section, "sufficient written notice" means a:
- (a) Written request for an absent ballot that is signed by the registered voter and returned to the city clerk in person or by mail or facsimile machine;
- (b) Form prescribed by the Secretary of State that is completed and signed by the registered voter and returned to the city clerk in person or by mail or facsimile machine; or
 - (c) Form provided by the Federal Government.
- 4. A city clerk shall consider a request from a voter who has given sufficient written notice on a form provided by the Federal Government as [a]:
- (a) A request for the primary city election and the general city election unless otherwise specified in the request : and
- (b) A request for an absent ballot for the two primary and general elections immediately following the date on which the city clerk received the request.
- 5. It is unlawful for a person fraudulently to request an absent ballot in the name of another person or to induce or coerce another person fraudulently to request an absent ballot in the name of another person. A person who violates any provision of this subsection is guilty of a category E felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130.



- **Sec. 37.** NRS 293C.387 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293C.387 1. The election returns from a special election, primary city election or general city election must be filed with the city clerk, who shall immediately place the returns in a safe or vault. No person may handle, inspect or in any manner interfere with the returns until they are canvassed by the mayor and the governing body of the city.
- 2. After the governing body of a city receives the returns from all the precincts and districts in the city, it shall meet with the mayor to canvass the returns. The canvass must be completed on or before the **[fifth]** tenth working day following the election.
- 3. In completing the canvass of the returns, the governing body of the city and the mayor shall:
 - (a) Note separately any clerical errors discovered; and
- (b) Take account of the changes resulting from the discovery [,] so that the result declared represents the true vote cast.
- 4. After the canvass is completed, the governing body of the city and mayor shall declare the result of the canvass.
- 5. The city clerk shall enter upon the records of the governing body of the city an abstract of the result. The abstract must be prepared in the manner prescribed by regulations adopted by the Secretary of State and must contain the number of votes cast for each candidate.
 - 6. After the abstract is entered, the:

- (a) City clerk shall seal the election returns, maintain them in a vault for at least 22 months and give no person access to them during that period, unless access is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction or by the governing body of the city.
- (b) Governing body of the city shall, by an order made and entered in the minutes of its proceedings, cause the city clerk to:
 - (1) Certify the abstract;
 - (2) Make a copy of the certified abstract;
- (3) Make a mechanized report of the abstract in compliance with regulations adopted by the Secretary of State; and
- (4) Transmit the copy of the certified abstract and the mechanized report of the abstract to the Secretary of State within 6 working days after the election.
 - 7. After the abstract of the results from a:
- (a) Primary city election has been certified, the city clerk shall certify the name of each person nominated and the name of the office for which he is nominated.
 - (b) General city election has been certified, the city clerk shall:
- (1) Issue under his hand and official seal to each person elected a certificate of election; and



(2) Deliver the certificate to the persons elected upon their application at the office of the city clerk.

- 8. The officers elected to the governing body of the city qualify and enter upon the discharge of their respective duties on the first regular meeting of that body next succeeding that in which the canvass of returns was made pursuant to subsection 2.
- **Sec. 38.** NRS 293C.532 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293C.532 1. Each person who resides within the boundaries of the city at the time of the holding of any city election, and whose name appears upon the [official register of voters for] statewide voter registration list as a registered voter of the city, is entitled to vote at each special election, primary city election and general city election, and for all officers to be voted for and on all questions submitted to the people at those elections except as otherwise provided in chapter 266 of NRS.
- 2. The governing body of a city may provide for a supplemental registration.
- **Sec. 39.** NRS 293C.535 is hereby amended to read as follows: 293C.535 1. Except as otherwise provided by special charter, registration of electors in incorporated cities must be accomplished in the manner provided in this chapter.
- 2. The county clerk shall *use the statewide voter registration list to* prepare for the city clerk of each incorporated city within his county the election board register of all electors eligible to vote at a regular or special city election.
- 3. The official register must be prepared in suitable books, one for each ward or other voting district within each incorporated city. The entries in the election board register must be arranged alphabetically with the surnames first.
- 4. The county clerk shall keep duplicate originals or copies of the applications to register to vote contained in the official register in his office.
- **Sec. 40.** Section 5.100 of the Charter of Carson City, being chapter 213, Statutes of Nevada 1969, as amended by chapter 189, Statutes of Nevada 1977, at page 354, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 5.100 Election returns; canvass; certificates of election; entry of officers upon duties.
 - 1. The election returns from any special, primary or general municipal election shall be filed with the clerk, who shall immediately place such returns in a safe or vault, and no person shall be permitted to handle, inspect or in any manner interfere with such returns until canvassed by the board.
 - 2. The board shall meet within 10 working days after any election and canvass the returns and declare the result.



The election returns shall then be sealed and kept by the clerk for 6 months, and no person shall have access thereto except on order of a court of competent jurisdiction or by order of the board.

- 3. The clerk, under his hand and official seal, shall issue to each person declared to be elected a certificate of election. The officers so elected shall qualify and enter upon the discharge of their respective duties on the 1st Monday in January next following their election.
- **Sec. 41.** Section 5.100 of the Charter of the City of Reno, being chapter 662, Statutes of Nevada 1971, as last amended by chapter 9, Statutes of Nevada 1993, at page 24, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 5.100 Election returns; canvass; certificates of election; entry of officers upon duties; tie vote procedure.
 - 1. The election returns from any special, primary or general election must be filed with the city clerk, who shall immediately place those returns in a safe or vault, and no person may handle, inspect or in any manner interfere with those returns until canvassed by the city council.
 - 2. The city council and city manager shall meet within 10 *working* days after any election and canvass the returns and declare the result. The election returns must then be sealed and kept by the city clerk for 6 months, and no person may have access thereto except on order of a court of competent jurisdiction or by order of the city council.
 - 3. The city clerk, under his hand and official seal, shall issue to each person declared to be elected a certificate of election. The officers elected shall qualify and enter upon the discharge of their respective duties at the first regular city council meeting following their election.
 - 4. If any election results in a tie, the city council shall summon the candidates who received the tie vote and determine the tie by lot. The clerk shall issue to the winner a certificate of election.
- **Sec. 42.** Section 5.100 of the Charter of the City of Sparks, being chapter 470, Statutes of Nevada 1975, as last amended by chapter 41, Statutes of Nevada 2001, at page 399, is hereby amended to read as follows:
 - Sec. 5.100 Election returns: Canvass; certificates of election; entry of officers upon duties; tie vote procedure.
 - 1. The election returns from any election must be filed with the city clerk, who shall immediately place the returns in a safe or vault. No person may handle, inspect or in any



manner interfere with the returns until canvassed by the city council.

- 2. The city council shall meet within 10 *working* days after any election and canvass the returns and declare the result. The election returns must then be sealed and kept by the city clerk for 22 months, and no person may have access to them except on order of a court of competent jurisdiction or by order of the city council.
- 3. The city clerk, under his hand and official seal, shall issue a certificate of election to each person elected. The officers elected shall qualify and enter upon the discharge of their respective duties at the first regular city council meeting following their election.
- 4. If any election results in a tie, the city council shall summon the candidates who received the tie vote and determine the tie by lot. The city clerk shall then issue to the winner a certificate of election.
- **Sec. 43.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.
- **Sec. 44.** The provisions of NRS 338.143 do not apply to a contract awarded before January 1, 2005, by the Secretary of State to establish and maintain the statewide voter registration list created pursuant to section 3 of this act.
- **Sec. 45.** 1. This section and sections 40 to 44, inclusive, of this act become effective upon passage and approval.
 - 2. Section 10 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2003.
- 3. Section 3 of this act becomes effective on passage and approval for purpose of awarding contracts to establish and maintain a statewide voter registration list pursuant to section 3 of this act, and on January 1, 2004, for all other purposes.
- 4. Sections 1, 2, 4 to 9, inclusive, and 11 to 39, inclusive, of this act become effective on July 1, 2004.



