

1 HB314
2 209347-1
3 By Representative Scott
4 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
5 First Read: 03-FEB-21

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the boards of registrars
9 periodically mail a notice to all registered voters
10 seeking address confirmation. If a voter does not
11 return the address confirmation card, the board of
12 registrars places the voter on the inactive list of
13 registered voters.

14 This bill would revise the procedures for
15 the Secretary of State and boards of registrars to
16 periodically update the statewide voter
17 registration database, and would authorize the
18 Secretary of State to adopt rules to implement this
19 section.

20 Also under existing law, the state
21 reimburses county commissions at the rate of
22 one-fourth of the cost to publish the names
23 proposed to be removed from the voter registration
24 database, as required under state law.

25 This bill would revise the publication
26 reimbursement rate to one-half of the costs.
27

1 A BILL
2 TO BE ENTITLED
3 AN ACT
4

5 Relating to voter registration lists; to amend
6 Sections 17-4-30 and 17-4-31, Code of Alabama 1975; to revise
7 the process used by the Secretary of State and boards of
8 registrars to periodically update the statewide voter
9 registration database; to authorize the Secretary of State to
10 adopt rules; and to revise the publication reimbursement rate
11 to counties relating to revising the statewide voter
12 registration database.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

14 Section 1. Sections 17-4-30 and 17-4-31, Code of
15 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

16 "§17-4-30.

17 "(a) Beginning in ~~January 1997~~ February 2025, and in
18 ~~January~~ February of every fourth year thereafter, the ~~boards~~
19 ~~of registrars shall mail a nonforwardable notice to all~~
20 ~~registered voters in the county. The notice shall be designed~~
21 ~~and provided for the boards of registrars by the Secretary of~~
22 ~~State. The notice shall be sent on a postcard providing~~
23 ~~general information on elections. The notice shall be mailed~~
24 ~~to the last known address of the voter appearing on the voter~~
25 ~~registration list. If the notice is returned to the boards of~~
26 ~~registrars indicating that the voter may have relocated, the~~
27 ~~board shall send a forwardable notice to the registered voter~~

1 ~~on which the voter may confirm his or her current address. The~~
2 ~~forwardable notice shall be mailed no later than 90 days after~~
3 ~~receipt of the returned nonforwardable notice. The boards~~
4 Secretary of State or board of registrars shall use
5 change-of-address information supplied by the United States
6 Postal Service through the National Change of Address database
7 to identify registered voters whose addresses may have
8 changed.

9 "(b) (1) If the Secretary of State or a board of
10 registrars determines from the information provided by the
11 United States Postal Service that a registered voter has moved
12 to a different residence address that is under the
13 jurisdiction of the same board of registrars, the board of
14 registrars shall change the registration records of that voter
15 to show the new address, and the Secretary of State or board
16 of registrars, within 90 days after identifying the potential
17 change, shall send the voter a notice of the change by
18 forwardable mail along with a postage prepaid, pre-addressed
19 return card on which the registered voter may correct his or
20 her current address information. The notice shall inform the
21 voter that if the voter did not change his or her residence,
22 he or she is required to return the pre-addressed card no
23 later than the last day to register to vote before an
24 election.

25 "(2) If the Secretary of State or board of
26 registrars determines from the information provided by the
27 United States Postal Service that a registered voter has moved

1 to a different residence address that is under the
2 jurisdiction of a different board of registrars or to a
3 residence address outside of the state, the Secretary of State
4 or board of registrars, within 90 days after identifying the
5 potential change, shall send the voter a notice of the change
6 by forwardable mail along with a postage prepaid,
7 pre-addressed return card on which the registered voter may
8 verify or correct his or her current address information. The
9 notice shall include both of the following:

10 "a. A statement informing the voter that if the
11 pre-addressed card is not returned within the time specified
12 in the notice, the voter will be permitted to vote in that
13 same jurisdiction during the period from the date the notice
14 was mailed and ending on the day after the date of the second
15 general election for federal office, provided the voter
16 completes a voter registration update form. If the voter does
17 not update his or her voter registration record or vote during
18 the period ending on the day after the date of the second
19 general election for federal office, the voter's name shall be
20 removed from the list of eligible voters.

21 "b. Information concerning how the voter may
22 continue his or her eligibility to vote in another
23 jurisdiction if the voter has changed his or her residence to
24 an address outside of the jurisdiction of the board of
25 registrars under which he or she is then registered.

26 "(c) The Secretary of State or board of registrars
27 shall record and maintain in the statewide voter registration

1 database the dates on which the ~~nonforwardable~~ notice ~~was~~ is
2 mailed to a registered voter and the card is subsequently
3 returned to the board ~~and the date on which the forwardable~~
4 ~~notice was mailed to~~ by the registered voter.

5 ~~"(b)~~ (d) The ~~boards~~ board of registrars shall update
6 the ~~voter list for the county~~ statewide voter registration
7 database using the information reported to the board by the
8 registered voters on the ~~address confirmation~~ prepaid,
9 pre-addressed return cards provided for in ~~subsection (a)~~ this
10 section.

11 ~~"(e)~~ (e) If the registered voter does not respond to the
12 ~~forwardable~~ notice ~~on which the registered voter may confirm~~
13 ~~his or her address~~ provided in this section within 90 days of
14 the date on which the notice was mailed or if the ~~forwardable~~
15 notice is returned to the board of registrars as
16 undeliverable, the ~~boards~~ board of registrars or its agent
17 shall ~~place the name of the registered voter on the inactive~~
18 ~~list of registered voters and in a suspense file in the office~~
19 ~~of the board. The suspense file shall contain all of the~~
20 ~~following information:~~ change the status of the voter to
21 inactive and indicate in the statewide voter registration
22 database the date the change is recorded and that the voter
23 did not respond to the mailing or that the mailing was
24 returned as undeliverable, in a manner provided by rule by the
25 Secretary of State.

26 ~~"(1) The name of the registered voter.~~

27 ~~"(2) The last known address of the registered voter.~~

1 ~~"(3) At least the last four digits of the Social~~
2 ~~Security number or other personal identification number of the~~
3 ~~registered voter.~~

4 ~~"(4) The date on which the name of the registered~~
5 ~~voter was placed in the suspense file.~~

6 ~~"(c) The name of a registered voter who does not~~
7 ~~vote or appear to vote in one of the next two federal~~
8 ~~elections held after his or her name is placed in the suspense~~
9 ~~file shall be removed from the voter list.~~

10 ~~"(d)(f) The names of persons to be removed from the~~
11 ~~list of registered voters pursuant to this section shall be~~
12 ~~published in accordance with Section 17-4-10.~~

13 "(g) The Secretary of State may adopt rules as
14 necessary to implement this section.

15 "(h) The Secretary of State may act as an agent for
16 the boards of registrars in implementing this section.

17 "§17-4-31.

18 "The state shall reimburse each county commission
19 for all the postage costs associated with voter lists
20 maintenance activities provided for in Section 17-4-30 and
21 ~~one-fourth~~ one-half of the cost of the publication of the
22 names of ~~persons~~ individuals to be removed from the list of
23 registered voters as required in Section 17-4-10. The
24 reimbursement shall be made from the Election Expenses Account
25 in the State Treasury upon approval by the Secretary of State
26 on warrants drawn by the state Comptroller."

1 Section 2. This act shall become effective
2 immediately following its passage and approval by the
3 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.