

1 SB29
2 208740-1
3 By Senator Butler
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21
6 PFD: 12/17/2020

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

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

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to voter registration lists; to amend Section 17-4-30, Code of Alabama 1975; to revise the process used by the Secretary of State and boards of registrars to

1 periodically update the statewide voter registration database;
2 and to authorize the Secretary of State to adopt rules to
3 implement this section

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

5 Section 1. Section 17-4-30, Code of Alabama 1975, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "§17-4-30.

8 "(a) Beginning in ~~January 1997~~ February 2025, and in
9 ~~January~~ February of every fourth year thereafter, the ~~boards~~
10 ~~of registrars shall mail a nonforwardable notice to all~~
11 ~~registered voters in the county. The notice shall be designed~~
12 ~~and provided for the boards of registrars by the Secretary of~~
13 ~~State. The notice shall be sent on a postcard providing~~
14 ~~general information on elections. The notice shall be mailed~~
15 ~~to the last known address of the voter appearing on the voter~~
16 ~~registration list. If the notice is returned to the boards of~~
17 ~~registrars indicating that the voter may have relocated, the~~
18 ~~board shall send a forwardable notice to the registered voter~~
19 ~~on which the voter may confirm his or her current address. The~~
20 ~~forwardable notice shall be mailed no later than 90 days after~~
21 ~~receipt of the returned nonforwardable notice. The boards~~
22 Secretary of State or board of registrars shall use
23 change-of-address information supplied by the United States
24 Postal Service through the National Change of Address database
25 to identify registered voters whose addresses may have
26 changed.

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

17 "(2) If the Secretary of State or board of
18 registrars determines from the information provided by the
19 United States Postal Service that a registered voter has moved
20 to a different residence address that is under the
21 jurisdiction of a different board of registrars or to a
22 residence address outside of the state, the Secretary of State
23 or board of registrars, within 90 days after identifying the
24 potential change, shall send the voter a notice of the change
25 by forwardable mail along with a postage prepaid pre-addressed
26 return card on which the registered voter may verify or

1 correct his or her current address information. The notice
2 shall include both of the following:

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

14 "b. Information concerning how the voter may
15 continue his or her eligibility to vote in another
16 jurisdiction if the voter has changed his or her residence to
17 an address outside of the jurisdiction of the board of
18 registrars under which he or she is then registered.

19 "(c) The Secretary of State or board of registrars
20 shall record and maintain in the statewide voter registration
21 database the dates on which the ~~nonforwardable~~ notice ~~was~~ is
22 mailed to a registered voter and the card is subsequently
23 returned to the board ~~and the date on which the forwardable~~
24 ~~notice was mailed to~~ by the registered voter.

25 ~~(b)~~ (d) The ~~boards~~ board of registrars shall update
26 the ~~voter list for the county~~ statewide voter registration
27 database using the information reported to the board by the

1 registered voters on the ~~address confirmation~~ prepaid
2 pre-addressed return cards provided for in ~~subsection (a)~~ this
3 section.

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

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

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

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

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

26 ~~"(c) The name of a registered voter who does not~~
27 ~~vote or appear to vote in one of the next two federal~~

1 ~~elections held after his or her name is placed in the suspense~~
2 ~~file shall be removed from the voter list.~~

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

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

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

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