

1 HOUSE BILL 208

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Rebecca Dow and Harlan Vincent and Jack Chatfield
5 and Mark B. Murphy and Mark Duncan
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO ELECTIONS; ALLOWING A QUALIFIED ELECTOR APPLYING
12 FOR A HUNTING OR FISHING LICENSE TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH.
14

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

16 SECTION 1. Section 1-4-5.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
17 Chapter 198, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "1-4-5.2. AGENCY REGISTRATION--FORM.--

19 A. A qualified elector may register to vote at
20 certain state government offices.

21 B. Pursuant to Section 1-4-47 NMSA 1978, a
22 qualified elector who applies for a driver's license, license
23 renewal or motor vehicle identification card who is not
24 registered to vote in this state and who is not automatically
25 registered to vote pursuant to the automatic voter registration

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1 provisions of Section 1-4-47 NMSA 1978 may simultaneously
2 register to vote or file a change of address for voter
3 registration purposes.

4 C. Pursuant to Section 1-4-48 NMSA 1978, a
5 qualified elector may register to vote: [~~in~~]

6 (1) at any state agency that provides public
7 assistance or services to persons with disabilities. The
8 secretary of state may designate other state or local public
9 offices with the agreement of those offices; or

10 (2) through the department of game and fish at
11 the time the qualified elector applies for a hunting or fishing
12 license pursuant to Subsection A of Section 17-3-5 NMSA 1978.

13 D. Pursuant to Sections 1-4-47 and 1-4-47.1 NMSA
14 1978, a qualified elector may become registered to vote by
15 automatic voter registration at the motor vehicle division of
16 the taxation and revenue department or other state or local
17 public offices designated by the secretary of state."

18 SECTION 2. Section 1-4-48 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995,
19 Chapter 198, Section 13, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "1-4-48. STATE-AGENCY-BASED VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAM--
21 ESTABLISHED--~~[HUMAN SERVICES]~~ HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY--DEPARTMENT
22 OF GAME AND FISH.--

23 A. The secretary of state shall adopt and publish
24 in accordance with the State Rules Act rules for the
25 administration of a state-agency-based voter registration

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1 program. The rules shall provide for distribution of voter
2 registration forms, provisions for the acceptance of voter
3 registration forms and procedures for reporting voter
4 registration activity in accordance with the federal National
5 Voter Registration Act of 1993.

6 B. Voter registration shall be made available:

7 (1) at all state agencies providing public
8 assistance or services to people with disabilities. The
9 secretary of state may designate other state and local public
10 offices to provide voter registration services with the
11 agreement of those offices; or

12 (2) through the department of game and fish by
13 a license vendor appointed and authorized by the director of
14 the department of game and fish to accept applications and
15 issue licenses for hunting or fishing.

16 C. Each state agency participating in the voter
17 registration program shall maintain sufficient records for the
18 secretary of state to comply with federal voter registration
19 reporting requirements and the federal Help America Vote Act of
20 2002. Any records maintained by a state agency regarding voter
21 registration activities in that agency are confidential and
22 shall not be released as public records.

23 D. Any voter registration made or accepted at a
24 state agency pursuant to this section shall be transmitted to
25 the appropriate registration officer within ten calendar days.

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1 E. A state agency employee or agency contractor who
2 participates in the voter registration process may not
3 intentionally influence the prospective registrant in the
4 selection of political party, or independent status, by word or
5 act. A state agency employee or agency contractor who
6 participates in the voter registration process may not reveal
7 the existence of or the nature of the voter registration to
8 anyone other than a registration officer.

9 F. The [~~human services department~~] health care
10 authority shall develop procedures to be approved by the
11 secretary of state to ensure that each benefit program
12 administered by the department appropriately ensures that
13 qualified electors receiving benefits are offered the
14 opportunity to register to vote or update an existing
15 certificate of registration without duplication of information
16 contained by the department or by the secretary of state. No
17 later than the last day of August of each calendar year, the
18 [~~human services department~~] health care authority shall issue
19 an annual report detailing implementation of the requirements
20 of this subsection. The report shall be sent to the
21 legislative council service, the secretary of state and each
22 county clerk.

23 G. If a person who is not a qualified elector
24 becomes registered to vote pursuant to this section, the
25 person's registration shall be canceled and the person shall be

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1 deemed to have never registered."

2 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
3 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.

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