

**House File 290 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 290  
BY TUREK

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for the registration of eligible electors upon  
2 review of electronic records received from state agencies, and  
3 including effective date provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 48A.7, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **48A.7 Registration in person.**

4 An eligible elector may register to vote by appearing  
5 personally and completing a voter registration form at the  
6 office of the commissioner in the county in which the person  
7 resides, at a motor vehicle driver's license station, including  
8 any county treasurer's office that is participating in county  
9 issuance of driver's licenses under chapter 321M, or at any voter  
10 registration agency. A For paper registration forms, a separate  
11 voter registration form shall be signed by each individual  
12 registrant.

13 Sec. 2. Section 48A.8, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 1. An eligible elector may request that a voter registration  
16 form be mailed to the elector. The completed form may be mailed  
17 or delivered by the registrant or the registrant's designee to  
18 the commissioner in the county where the person resides or to  
19 the state commissioner of elections for a program participant,  
20 as provided in section 9E.6. A For paper registration forms,  
21 a separate voter registration form shall be signed by each  
22 individual registrant.

23 Sec. 3. Section 48A.18, subsections 1 and 3, Code 2025, are  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 1. Each state motor vehicle driver's license application,  
26 including any renewal application or application for a  
27 nonoperator's identification card, submitted to the office of  
28 driver services of the state department of transportation shall  
29 serve as an application for voter registration unless the  
30 commissioner of registration determines that the applicant is  
31 not an eligible elector or the applicant declines to register  
32 to vote after receiving notification under subsection 4A. A  
33 completed application or paper voter registration form submitted  
34 to the office of driver services of the state department of  
35 transportation shall be considered to update any previous voter

1 registration by the registrant.

2 3. Information relating to the ~~refusal~~ decision of an  
3 applicant for a driver's license to ~~apply~~ decline to register  
4 to vote shall not be used for any purpose other than voter  
5 registration.

6 Sec. 4. Section 48A.18, subsection 4, Code 2025, is amended  
7 by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the  
8 following:

9 4. a. The state voter registration commission shall  
10 establish schedules by which the department of transportation  
11 shall transmit to the state registrar of voters electronic  
12 records containing the legal name, age, residence, and  
13 citizenship information for, and the electronic signature of,  
14 each person submitting an application under this section.

15 b. The state voter registration commission shall establish  
16 schedules by which the state registrar of voters shall  
17 make accessible or transmit electronic records and electronic  
18 signatures received under paragraph "a" to the appropriate  
19 commissioner of registration.

20 c. The state voter registration commission shall establish  
21 schedules by which the department of transportation shall  
22 transmit any completed paper registration forms to the  
23 appropriate commissioner of registration.

24 d. The state commissioner of elections shall adopt rules,  
25 consistent with section 9E.6, for the registration of address  
26 confidentiality program participants.

27 e. The state voter registration commission shall adopt rules  
28 pursuant to chapter 17A to administer and interpret this section,  
29 including rules to establish electronic and paper forms and  
30 all procedures used by the office of driver services for  
31 voter registration purposes, rules to establish schedules for  
32 transmission of electronic records, electronic signatures, and  
33 completed paper voter registration forms, and rules and forms to  
34 decline being registered to vote.

35 Sec. 5. Section 48A.18, Code 2025, is amended by adding the

1 following new subsection:

2 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. a. (1) Upon receiving the electronic  
3 record for, and electronic signature of, a person under  
4 subsection 4, the state registrar of voters shall transmit or  
5 otherwise make accessible the electronic record and electronic  
6 signature of the person to the commissioner of registration  
7 of the county where the person resides. Upon reviewing the  
8 electronic record received from the state registrar of voters,  
9 along with any other relevant information, the commissioner of  
10 registration shall determine if a person is an eligible elector  
11 of the county. If the commissioner determines that a person  
12 is an eligible elector of the county and is not registered to  
13 vote in that county, the commissioner shall notify the person of  
14 the separate processes to decline being registered to vote or to  
15 declare a political party affiliation.

16 (2) If the person is registered to vote in the county, the  
17 commissioner shall use the electronic record and information to  
18 update the person's voter registration if appropriate.

19 b. If a person notified under paragraph "a" does not decline  
20 to be registered to vote within twenty-one calendar days  
21 after the commissioner of registration issues the notification,  
22 the person's electronic record and electronic signature shall  
23 constitute a completed voter registration form under section  
24 48A.11, and the commissioner of registration shall register the  
25 person to vote in that county. The commissioner shall send an  
26 acknowledgment pursuant to section 48A.26.

27 c. A commissioner of registration shall not add a person  
28 subject to registration under this subsection to a voter  
29 registration list until at least twenty-one calendar days after  
30 the commissioner has issued notification to the person as  
31 described in paragraph "a".

32 d. The electronic record and electronic signature, received  
33 under this subsection, of a person who does not qualify  
34 as an eligible elector shall not constitute a completed  
35 voter registration form under section 48A.11 and such a

1 person's application for a driver's license or nonoperator's  
2 identification card shall not be considered to be a voter  
3 registration application for purposes of section 39A.2,  
4 subsection 1, paragraph "a".

5 Sec. 6. Section 48A.19, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
6 by adding the following new paragraph:

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. d. The department of education and all state  
8 offices that collect personal information sufficient to complete  
9 a voter registration, as determined by the state commissioner.

10 Sec. 7. Section 48A.19, subsection 4, paragraph a, unnumbered  
11 paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

12 The A voter registration agency that does not collect  
13 personal information sufficient to complete a voter registration  
14 application shall provide a form to applicants that includes all  
15 of the following:

16 Sec. 8. Section 48A.21, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18 **48A.21 Transmission of forms from agencies and driver's**  
19 **license stations.**

20 1. The state registrar of voters shall adopt administrative  
21 rules regulating the transmission of completed voter registration  
22 forms from voter registration agencies and from driver's license  
23 stations, including county treasurer's offices participating in  
24 county issuance of driver's licenses under chapter 321M. All  
25 completed voter registration applications in the possession of  
26 a voter registration agency, a driver's license station, or  
27 a county treasurer's office that is participating in county  
28 issuance of driver's licenses at 5:00 p.m. on the last workday of  
29 each week shall be transmitted to the location designated by the  
30 state registrar of voters by rule. Procedures or requirements  
31 for more frequent transmissions may be specified by rule.

32 2. a. The state voter registration commission shall  
33 establish schedules by which the voter registration agencies  
34 pursuant to section 48A.19 that collect personal information  
35 sufficient to complete a voter registration application shall

1 transmit to the state registrar of voters electronic records  
2 containing the legal name, age, residence, and citizenship  
3 information for, and the electronic signature of, each person  
4 providing personal information as described in this section.

5 b. The state voter registration commission shall establish  
6 schedules by which the state registrar of voters shall  
7 make accessible or transmit electronic records and electronic  
8 signatures received under paragraph "a" to the appropriate  
9 commissioner of registration.

10 c. The state voter registration commission shall establish  
11 schedules by which voter registration agencies shall transmit  
12 any completed paper registration forms to the appropriate  
13 commissioner of registration.

14 d. The state commissioner of elections shall adopt rules,  
15 consistent with section 9E.6, for the registration of address  
16 confidentiality program participants.

17 e. The state voter registration commission shall adopt rules  
18 pursuant to chapter 17A to administer and interpret this  
19 section, including rules to establish electronic and paper forms  
20 and all procedures used by voter registration agencies for  
21 voter registration purposes, rules to establish schedules for  
22 transmission of electronic records, electronic signatures, and  
23 completed paper voter registration forms, and rules and forms to  
24 decline being registered to vote.

25 3. a. (1) Upon receiving the electronic record for, and  
26 electronic signature of, a person under subsection 2, the state  
27 registrar of voters shall transmit or otherwise make accessible  
28 the electronic record and electronic signature of the person to  
29 the commissioner of registration of the county where the person  
30 resides. Upon reviewing the electronic record received from  
31 the state registrar of voters, along with any other relevant  
32 information, the commissioner of registration shall determine  
33 if a person is an eligible elector of the county. If the  
34 commissioner determines that a person is an eligible elector of  
35 the county and is not registered to vote in that county, the

1 commissioner shall notify the person of the separate processes to  
2 decline being registered to vote or to declare a political party  
3 affiliation.

4 (2) If the person is registered to vote in the county, the  
5 commissioner shall use the electronic record and information to  
6 update the person's voter registration if appropriate.

7 b. If a person notified under paragraph "a" does not decline  
8 to be registered to vote within twenty-one calendar days  
9 after the commissioner of registration issues the notification,  
10 the person's electronic record and electronic signature shall  
11 constitute a completed voter registration form under section  
12 48A.11, and the commissioner of registration shall register the  
13 person to vote in that county. The commissioner shall send an  
14 acknowledgment pursuant to section 48A.26.

15 c. A commissioner of registration shall not add a person  
16 subject to registration under this subsection to a voter  
17 registration list until at least twenty-one calendar days after  
18 the commissioner has issued notification to the person as  
19 described in paragraph "a".

20 d. The electronic record and electronic signature, received  
21 under this subsection, of a person who does not qualify as  
22 an eligible elector shall not constitute a completed voter  
23 registration form under section 48A.11 and such a person  
24 shall not be considered to have submitted a voter registration  
25 application for purposes of section 39A.2, subsection 1,  
26 paragraph "a".

27 Sec. 9. Section 48A.26, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code 2025,  
28 is amended to read as follows:

29 b. (1) For a voter registration form or change of  
30 information in a voter registration record submitted at a  
31 precinct caucus, the commissioner shall send an acknowledgment  
32 within forty-five days of receipt of the form or change of  
33 information.

34 (2) For a voter registration application or change of  
35 information in a voter registration record completed pursuant

1 to section 48A.18 or 48A.19, the commissioner shall send an  
2 acknowledgment within seven working days of the person being  
3 registered under either section.

4 Sec. 10. Section 48A.26, subsection 8, Code 2025, is amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 8. An A completed voter registration application, improperly  
7 transmitted under section 48A.18, subsection 4A, or under  
8 section 48A.21, subsection 2, or an improperly addressed or  
9 delivered registration form shall be transmitted or forwarded to  
10 the appropriate county commissioner of registration within two  
11 working days after it is received by any other official. The  
12 date of registration shall be the date the completed application  
13 or registration form was received by the first official. If  
14 the registration form was postmarked fifteen or more days before  
15 an election and the registration form was received by the first  
16 official after the close of registration, the registration form  
17 shall be considered on time for the election.

18 Sec. 11. Section 48A.36, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
19 to read as follows:

20 1. ~~Voter registration agencies and the office of driver~~  
21 ~~services of the state department of transportation may~~  
22 ~~electronically transmit registration data to the state registrar~~  
23 ~~of voters, who shall distribute the information, electronically~~  
24 ~~or otherwise, to the appropriate commissioner in accordance~~  
25 ~~with rules of the state voter registration commission and the~~  
26 ~~state registrar of voters. The office of driver services of~~  
27 the state department of transportation and voter registration  
28 agencies that collect personal information sufficient to complete  
29 a voter registration application shall electronically transmit  
30 registration data to the state registrar of voters as required  
31 pursuant to sections 48A.18 and 48A.21. The state agency  
32 originating the registration data shall permanently retain an  
33 electronic copy of the form completed by the registrant,  
34 including the registrant's signature, and shall develop  
35 procedures for the retrieval and printing of that electronic

1 document. A printed copy of an electronic registration document  
2 shall be made only upon the agency's receipt of a court order.

3 Sec. 12. Section 331.557A, subsection 5, Code 2023, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 5. Participate in voter registration according to the terms  
6 of chapter 48A, and submit completed voter registration forms to  
7 the ~~state registrar of voters~~ appropriate county commissioner of  
8 registration.

9 Sec. 13. EMERGENCY RULES. The state voter registration  
10 commission, in consultation with the department of transportation  
11 and voter registration agencies, may adopt emergency rules under  
12 section 17A.4, subsection 3, and section 17A.5, subsection 2,  
13 paragraph "b", to implement the provisions of this Act and the  
14 rules shall be effective immediately upon filing unless a later  
15 date is specified in the rules. Any rules adopted in accordance  
16 with this section shall also be published as a notice of intended  
17 action as provided in section 17A.4.

18 Sec. 14. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection 3,  
19 shall not apply to this Act.

20 Sec. 15. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of  
21 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill provides for the registration of eligible electors  
26 upon review of electronic records received from state agencies.

27 The bill allows for registration of eligible electors to vote  
28 following review of electronic records received from driver's  
29 license and nonoperator's identification card applications by  
30 county commissioners of registration (county auditors).

31 The bill requires that the office of driver services  
32 of the department of transportation transmit to the state  
33 registrar of voters (the secretary of state) electronic records  
34 containing the legal name, age, residence, and citizenship  
35 information for, and the electronic signature of, each person

1 submitting an application for a driver's license or nonoperator's  
2 identification card, or any renewal application. Current Code  
3 section 321.182 requires that an application for a license  
4 or card include an applicant's full name, signature, current  
5 mailing address, current residential address, date of birth,  
6 social security number, and other information. Under current  
7 administrative rules of the state department of transportation,  
8 an applicant for a license or card is required to provide proof  
9 of lawful status in the United States. Also under current  
10 administrative rules, a person's signature for a driver's license  
11 or nonoperator's identification card application is required  
12 to be captured electronically. Under current law, a county  
13 treasurer's office participating in county issuance of driver's  
14 licenses is required to participate in voter registration to the  
15 same extent as a license facility of the state department of  
16 transportation.

17 The bill requires the state registrar of voters to transmit  
18 the electronic records and electronic signatures to the county  
19 commissioner of registration of the county where the person  
20 resides. The bill requires that the county commissioner review  
21 the electronic record and any other relevant information to  
22 determine if a person is an eligible elector. If the county  
23 commissioner determines a person to be an eligible elector  
24 and the person is not registered to vote in the county, the  
25 county commissioner is required to notify the person of the  
26 separate processes to decline to register to vote or to declare  
27 a political party affiliation. If a notified person fails  
28 to decline voter registration within 21 days after the county  
29 commissioner issued the notification, the bill provides that the  
30 electronic record and electronic signature shall constitute a  
31 completed voter registration form for that person and the bill  
32 requires the county commissioner to register the person to vote  
33 in that county and send the person an acknowledgment as required  
34 by current law.

35 The bill prohibits a county commissioner from adding a

1 person's name to a voter registration list until at least 21  
2 days after the commissioner has issued notification to the  
3 person. The bill requires that a county commissioner send an  
4 acknowledgment of registration within seven business days of  
5 registering a person under the bill. The bill also provides  
6 that the electronic record and electronic signature of a person  
7 who does not qualify as an eligible elector does not constitute  
8 a completed voter registration form. Under the bill, such a  
9 person submitting an application for a license or card will not  
10 be subject to charges for voter registration fraud under Code  
11 section 39A.2 for submitting such an application.

12 The bill also grants the state voter registration commission  
13 the authority to adopt rules to administer and interpret the  
14 provisions of the bill relating to voter registration at motor  
15 vehicle driver's license stations. If interpretive rulemaking  
16 authority is clearly vested in the discretion of an agency  
17 by statute, the applicable judicial standard of review is  
18 whether the rules constitute an irrational, illogical, or wholly  
19 unjustifiable interpretation of law by the agency (Code section  
20 17A.19(10)(1)). If interpretive rulemaking authority is not  
21 clearly vested in the discretion of an agency, the applicable  
22 judicial standard of review is whether the rules constitute an  
23 erroneous interpretation of law (Code section 17A.19(10)(c)).

24 The bill makes changes to current law related to address  
25 confidentiality program participants under Code chapter 9E by  
26 requiring the state registrar to adopt rules for administration  
27 of registration for those participants. The bill maintains  
28 current law to allow for submission of a paper voter registration  
29 form through driver's license offices. The bill specifies that  
30 a requirement that separate registration forms be signed by each  
31 individual registrant only applies to paper registration forms.  
32 Under the bill, driver's license offices are required to transmit  
33 voter registration forms to the appropriate county commissioner  
34 and to transmit all electronic records and electronic signatures  
35 to the state registrar of voters.

1 Under current law, the state registrar of voters is required  
2 to establish rules regulating transmission of voter registration  
3 forms from driver's license stations and voter registration  
4 agencies. Under the bill, such rules are required to be  
5 established by the state commission.

6 The bill also allows for automatic voter registration to be  
7 completed based upon information received from voter registration  
8 agencies, including, under the bill, the department of education  
9 and other state offices that collect personal information  
10 sufficient to complete a voter registration application.

11 The bill provides that the state voter registration  
12 commission, in consultation with the department of transportation  
13 and voter registration agencies, may adopt emergency rules to  
14 implement the provisions of the bill.

15 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
16 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section  
17 25B.2(3), which would relieve a political subdivision from  
18 complying with a state mandate if funding for the cost of the  
19 state mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore, political  
20 subdivisions are required to comply with any state mandate  
21 included in the bill.

22 The bill takes effect upon enactment.