SENATE FILE 550
BY   COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1088)

# A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to voter registration, including voter
2    registration file maintenance, applications for voter
3    registration, and verification of voter eligibility.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 47.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
2 to read as follows:
3 2. *a.* ~~On or before January 1, 2006, the~~ The state registrar
4 of voters shall implement in a uniform and nondiscriminatory
5 manner, a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive
6 computerized statewide voter registration file defined,
7 maintained, and administered at the state level that contains
8 the name and registration information of every legally registered
9 voter in the state and assigns a unique identifier to each
10 legally registered voter in the state. The state voter
11 registration system shall be coordinated with other agency
12 databases within the state, including~~,~~ but not limited to~~,~~ state
13 department of transportation driver's license records, judicial
14 records of convicted felons and persons declared incompetent to
15 vote, and department of health and human services records of
16 deceased persons.
17 *b.* ~~On or after January 1, 2007, a~~ A county shall not
18 establish or maintain a voter registration system separate from
19 the state voter registration system. Each county shall provide
20 to the state registrar the names, voter registration information,
21 and voting history of each registered voter in the county in the
22 form required by the state registrar.
23 *c.* A state or local election official may obtain immediate
24 electronic access to the information contained in the
25 computerized voter registration file. All voter registration
26 information obtained by a local election official shall be
27 electronically entered into the computerized voter registration
28 file on an expedited basis at the time the information is
29 provided to the local election official. The state registrar
30 shall provide such support as may be required to enable local
31 election officials to electronically enter the information into
32 the computerized voter registration file on an expedited basis.
33 The list generated from the computerized file shall serve as the
34 official voter registration list for the conduct of all elections
35 for federal office in the state.

1     *d.* The state registrar shall prescribe by rule the procedures
2 for access to the state voter registration file, including all of
3 the following:
4     (1) Access protocols for adding, changing, or deleting
5 information from the state voter registration file.
6     (2) Training requirements for all state voter registration
7 file users.
8     (3) Technology safeguards, including county information
9 technology network requirements, necessary to access the state
10 voter registration file.
11     (4) Breach incident response requirements and protocols on
12 all matters related to elections.
13     *e.* The state registrar may rescind access to the statewide
14 voter registration file from a user who is not in compliance with
15 the prescribed rules.
16     *f.* ~~(1)~~ The state registrar shall, in the first quarter
17 of each calendar year, conduct a verification of all voters
18 in the statewide voter registration file, which shall include
19 cross-referencing the records in the statewide voter registration
20 file with similar records maintained by other states. The state
21 registrar of voters shall cancel the registration of a voter
22 found to be ineligible pursuant to section 48A.30. The state
23 registrar shall submit a report to the general assembly by April
24 30 of each year regarding the number of voter registrations
25 canceled pursuant to this paragraph. The state registrar shall
26 also publish this report on the internet site of the state
27 registrar.
28     ~~(2)~~ *g.* The state registrar may contract with a third-party
29 vendor, including state and federal government agencies and
30 private entities, to develop or provide a program to allow the
31 state registrar to verify the status of records in the statewide
32 voter registration file and identify ineligible voters on an
33 ongoing basis.
34     *h.* The state registrar may adopt rules pursuant to chapter
35 17A for the use of federal and other state agency sources

1 of information.  The state registrar and county commissioners
2 of elections may use those sources of information for voter
3 registration file maintenance.
4    *i.*  The department of transportation shall transmit to the
5 state registrar a list of each person seventeen years of age
6 or older in the state who has submitted documentation indicating
7 that the person is not a citizen of the United States.
8    Sec. 2.  Section 48A.10A, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2025, are
9 amended to read as follows:
10    1.  The state registrar shall compare lists of persons who
11 are registered to vote with the department of transportation's
12 driver's license ~~and~~ files, nonoperator's identification card
13 files, and noncitizen identification files, and shall, on an
14 initial basis, issue a voter identification card to each active,
15 registered voter whose name does not appear in the department
16 of transportation's files.  The voter identification card shall
17 include the name of the registered voter, a signature line above
18 which the registered voter shall sign the voter identification
19 card, the registered voter's identification number assigned to
20 the voter pursuant to section 47.7, subsection 2, an additional
21 four-digit personal identification number assigned by the state
22 commissioner, and the times during which polling places will be
23 open on election days.
24    2.  The commissioner shall issue voter identification cards
25 on an ongoing basis as prescribed by the state registrar.
26 The commissioner shall, as a part of the voter acknowledgment
27 process required under sections 48A.26 and 48A.26A, issue
28 a voter identification card to a registered voter under
29 this subsection at the time of registration or update to
30 registration if the registered voter's name does not appear
31 in the department of transportation's driver's license, ~~or~~
32 nonoperator's identification card, or noncitizen identification
33 files.  A registered voter whose name appears in the
34 department of transportation's driver's license, ~~or~~ nonoperator's
35 identification card, or noncitizen identification files shall not

1 be issued a voter identification card pursuant to this section.
2    Sec. 3.  Section 48A.18, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
3 to read as follows:
4    1.  *a.*  ~~Each~~ Except as provided in paragraph "b", each state
5 motor vehicle driver's license application, including any renewal
6 application or application for a nonoperator's identification
7 card, submitted to the office of driver services of the state
8 department of transportation shall serve as an application for
9 voter registration unless the applicant declines to register
10 to vote.  A completed voter registration form submitted to
11 the office of driver services of the state department of
12 transportation shall be considered to update any previous voter
13 registration by the registrant.
14    *b.*  An application for a state motor vehicle driver's license
15 or nonoperator's identification card shall not serve as an
16 application for voter registration if the applicant submits
17 documentation demonstrating that the applicant is not a citizen
18 of the United States.
19    Sec. 4.  Section 48A.19, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended
20 to read as follows:
21    3.  ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection 7, the voter
22 registration agency shall provide voter registration services
23 with each application for services or assistance and with each
24 recertification, renewal, or change of address form completed
25 relating to the agency's services.  The secretary of state shall
26 adopt administrative rules in cooperation with voter registration
27 agencies to carry out the requirements of this section.
28    Sec. 5.  Section 48A.19, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
29 following new subsection:
30    NEW SUBSECTION.  7.  The voter registration agency shall not
31 provide voter registration services to a person submitting an
32 application for services or assistance or a recertification,
33 renewal, or change of address form completed relating to
34 the agency's services if the person submits documentation
35 demonstrating that the person is not a citizen of the United

1 States.

2 Sec. 6. Section 48A.25A, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
3 following new subsection:

4 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. A voter registration record shall be
5 designated as unconfirmed status if the registrant self-reports
6 to be a noncitizen on the voter registration form and signs
7 the portion of the form affirming the person's United States
8 citizenship.

9 Sec. 7. Section 48A.30, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
10 by adding the following new paragraph:

11 NEW PARAGRAPH. *h.* The registered voter submits documentation
12 that indicates that the registered voter is not a citizen of the
13 United States or reports to a state or federal agency that the
14 registered voter is not a citizen of the United States.

15 Sec. 8. Section 48A.30, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 2. When a registration is canceled pursuant to subsection 1,
18 paragraph *"d"*, *"e"*, ~~or~~ *"g"*, or *"h"*, the commissioner shall send a
19 notice of the cancellation to the registered voter.

20 Sec. 9. Section 48A.37, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 2. Electronic records shall include a status code designating
23 whether the records are active, inactive, incomplete, pending,
24 unconfirmed, or canceled.

25 *a.* Inactive records are records of registered voters to whom
26 notices have been sent pursuant to section 48A.28, and who have
27 not returned the card or otherwise responded to the notice,
28 and those records have been designated inactive pursuant to
29 section 48A.29. Inactive records are also records of registered
30 voters to whom notices have been sent pursuant to section
31 48A.26A and who have not responded to the notice. Incomplete
32 records are records missing required information pursuant to
33 section 48A.11, subsection 8. Pending records are records of
34 applicants whose applications have not been verified pursuant to
35 section 48A.25A. Unconfirmed records are records of registered

1 voters about whom the state registrar or county commissioner has
2 received information from a reliable source indicating that the
3 registered voter is not qualified. Canceled records are records
4 that have been canceled pursuant to section 48A.30. All other
5 records are active records.
6     *b.* An inactive record shall be made active when the
7 registered voter requests an absentee ballot, votes at an
8 election, registers again, or reports a change of name, address,
9 telephone number, or political party or organization affiliation.
10 An incomplete record shall be made active when a completed
11 application is received from the applicant and verified pursuant
12 to section 48A.25A. A pending record shall be made active upon
13 verification or upon the voter providing identification pursuant
14 to section 48A.8. An unconfirmed record shall be made active
15 upon the registered voter providing evidence that the registered
16 voter is qualified.
17     Sec. 10. Section 49.77, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 2025,
18 is amended to read as follows:
19     *a.* Any person desiring to vote shall sign a voter's
20 declaration provided by the officials, in substantially the
21 following form:
22                   VOTER'S DECLARATION
23                     OF ELIGIBILITY
24   I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a resident of
25 the .... precinct, .... ward or township, city of ........,
26 county of ........, Iowa. I am a citizen of the United States.
27   I am a registered voter. I was born on the .... day of ....
28 (month) .... (year). I have not voted and will not
29 vote in any other precinct in said election.
30   I understand that any false statement in this declaration is a
31 criminal offense punishable as provided by law.
32 ................................
33 Signature of Voter
34 ................................
35 Address

6      Sec. 11.  Section 49.80, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2025,
7  is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:
8      NEW SUBPARAGRAPH.  (5)  The person's citizenship status.
9      Sec. 12.  Section 50.22, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
10 to read as follows:
11     2.  The decision to count or reject each ballot shall be
12 made upon the basis of the information given on the envelope
13 containing the provisional ballot, the evidence concerning
14 the challenge, the registration and the returned receipts of
15 registration.  Ballots submitted to the board pursuant to section
16 49.78 or 49.81 that are not cured by the deadline provided in
17 section 49.81, subsection 6, shall be rejected.
18                        EXPLANATION
19        The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
20          the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
21     This bill relates to voter registration.
22     The bill specifies that the state registrar of voters may
23 contract with federal and state agencies and private entities
24 for voter registration verification purposes and allows the state
25 registrar to adopt rules regarding the use of federal and state
26 sources of information for voter registration file maintenance.
27     The bill requires the department of transportation (DOT) to
28 share with the state registrar of voters a list of each person
29 who has submitted documentation indicating that the person is not
30 a citizen of the United States and requires the state registrar
31 of voters to compare the list of registered voters with the
32 noncitizen identification information maintained by the DOT.
33     The bill prohibits the DOT and other voter registration
34 agencies from treating applications for driver's licenses,
35 nonoperator's identification cards, services, or assistance as

1 applications for voter registration if the applicant submits
2 documentation demonstrating that the applicant is not a citizen
3 of the United States.
4     The bill requires a voter registration to be marked as
5 "unconfirmed" if a registrant marks on the voter registration
6 form that the registrant is a noncitizen and also signs the
7 portion of the form affirming that the registrant is a citizen of
8 the United States or if the state registrar of voters or county
9 commissioner of elections receives reliable information that the
10 registered voter is not a citizen of the United States.  The
11 bill requires a voter registration to be changed from unconfirmed
12 to active if the registered voter provides evidence that the
13 registered voter is qualified to vote.  The bill adds a statement
14 regarding citizenship status to the declaration of eligibility
15 signed by each voter prior to receiving a ballot.
16     The bill also requires a voter registration to be canceled
17 if the registered voter submits documentation that indicates
18 that the registered voter is not a citizen of the United States
19 or reports to a state or federal agency that the registered
20 voter is not a citizen of the United States.  The bill allows
21 a precinct election official to question a person about the
22 person's citizenship status if the right of the person to vote
23 is challenged at the time the person is offering to vote.
24     The bill requires the special precinct election board to
25 reject provisional ballots that have not been cured by the
26 statutory deadline.