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SENATE BILL NO. 358

Offered January 22, 1998

A BILL to amend and reenact § 24.2-114 of the Code of Virginia, relating to duties and powers of general registrars.

Patron—Whipple

Referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 24.2-114 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 24.2-114. Duties and powers of general registrar.

In addition to the other duties required by this title, the general registrar, and the assistant registrars acting under his supervision, shall:

1. Maintain the office of the general registrar, establish and maintain additional public places for voter registration in accordance with the provisions of § 24.2-412 and participate in programs to educate the general public concerning registration and encourage registration by the general public. No registrar shall actively solicit, in a selective manner, any application for registration or for a ballot or offer anything of value for any such application.

2. Perform his duties within the county or city he was appointed to serve, except that a registrar may go into a county or city in the Commonwealth contiguous to his county or city to register voters of his county or city when conducting registration jointly with the registrar of the contiguous county or city.

3. Provide the appropriate forms for applications to register and to obtain the information necessary to complete the applications pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of Virginia and general law.

3a. Indicate on the registration records for each accepted mail voter registration application form returned by mail pursuant to Article 3.1 (§ 24.2-416.1 et seq.) of Chapter 4 that the registrant has registered by mail. The general registrar shall fulfill this duty in accordance with the instructions of the State Board so that those persons who registered by mail are identified on the registration records, lists of registered voters furnished pursuant to § 24.2-405, lists of persons who voted furnished pursuant to § 24.2-406, and precinct registered voter lists used for the conduct of elections.

4. Accept a registration application submitted by or for a resident of any other county or city in the Commonwealth. Registrars shall process registration applications from residents of other counties and cities in accordance with written instructions from the State Board and shall forward the completed application to the registrar of the applicant's residence. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 24.2-416, the registrar of the applicant's residence shall recognize as timely any application submitted to any person authorized to receive voter registration applications pursuant to Chapter 4 (§ 24.2-400 et seq.), prior to or on the final day of registration. The registrar of the applicant's residence shall determine the qualification of the applicant and promptly notify the applicant at the address shown on the application of the acceptance or denial of his registration.

5. Preserve order at and in the vicinity of the place of registration. For this purpose, the registrar shall be vested with the powers of a conservator of the peace while engaged in the duties imposed by law. He may exclude from the place of registration persons whose presence disturbs the registration process. He may appoint special officers, not exceeding three in number, for a place of registration and may summon persons in the vicinity to assist whenever, in his judgment, it is necessary to preserve order. The general registrar and any assistant registrar shall be authorized to administer oaths for purposes of this title.

6. Maintain the official registration records for his county or city in the system approved by, and in accordance with the instructions of, the State Board; preserve the written applications of all persons who are registered; and preserve for a period of four years the written applications of all persons who are denied registration or whose registration is cancelled.

7. If a person is denied registration, promptly notify such person in writing of the denial and the reason for denial in accordance with § 24.2-422.

8. Verify the accuracy of the separate precinct registered voter lists provided for each election by the State Board, make the lists available to the precincts, and return the lists to the State Board after each election for voting credit purposes.

9. After the return of the precinct registered voter lists by the State Board, retain the lists in his principal office ~~for four years at least until the duplicate set of lists or pollbooks has been delivered by the clerk of the court pursuant to § 24.2-668 to the general registrar for retention by the general~~ registrar for five years from the date of the election.

INTRODUCED

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- 60 10. Maintain accurate and current registration records and comply with the requirements of this title
61 for the transfer, inactivation, and cancellation of voter registrations.
- 62 11. Whenever election districts, precincts, or polling places are altered, provide for entry into the
63 voter registration system of the proper district and precinct designations for each registered voter whose
64 districts or precinct have changed and notify each affected voter of changes affecting his districts or
65 polling place by mail.
- 66 12. Whenever any part of his county or city becomes part of another jurisdiction by annexation,
67 merger, or other means, transfer to the appropriate general registrar the registration records of the
68 affected registered voters. The general registrar for their new county or city shall notify them by mail of
69 the transfer and their new election districts and polling places.
- 70 13. When he registers any person who was previously registered in another state, notify the
71 appropriate authority in that state of the person's registration in Virginia.
- 72 14. At the request of the county or city chairman of any political party nominating a candidate for
73 the General Assembly, constitutional office, or local office by a method other than a primary, review
74 any petition required by the party in its nomination process to determine whether those signing the
75 petition are registered voters with active status.
- 76 15. Carry out such other duties as prescribed by the electoral board.