

1 SB304  
2 203869-1  
3 By Senator Butler  
4 RFD: Governmental Affairs  
5 First Read: 12-MAR-20

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 2021, 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 board of registrars or its  
8 agent, within 90 days after identifying the potential change,  
9 shall send the voter a notice of the change by forwardable  
10 mail including a postage prepaid pre-addressed return card on  
11 which the registered voter may verify or correct his or her  
12 current address information.

13           "(2) If the Secretary of State or board of  
14 registrars determines from the information provided by the  
15 United States Postal Service that a registered voter has moved  
16 to a different residence address that is under the  
17 jurisdiction of a different board of registrars, the Secretary  
18 of State or board of registrars, within 90 days after  
19 identifying the potential change, shall send the voter a  
20 notice of the change by forwardable mail including a postage  
21 prepaid pre-addressed return card on which the registered  
22 voter may verify or correct his or her current address  
23 information.

24           "(3) If the Secretary of State or board of  
25 registrars determines from the information provided by the  
26 United States Postal Service that a registered voter has moved  
27 to a different residence address outside of the state, the

1 Secretary of State or board of registrars, within 90 days  
2 after identifying the potential change, shall send the voter a  
3 notice of the change by forwardable mail including a postage  
4 prepaid pre-addressed return card on which the registered  
5 voter may verify or correct his or her current address  
6 information.

7 "(c) Notice provided to a registered voter pursuant  
8 to subdivisions (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (b) shall  
9 inform the voter of all of the following:

10 "(1) If the registered voter did not change his or  
11 her residence, or changed residence but remained under  
12 jurisdiction of the same board of registrars, the voter shall  
13 be required to return the card no later than the last day to  
14 register to vote before an election.

15 "(2) If the card is not returned within the  
16 specified time, the voter shall be required to complete a  
17 voter registration update form before he or she is permitted  
18 to vote in an election during the period beginning on the date  
19 the notice was mailed and ending on the day after the date of  
20 the second general election for federal office that occurs  
21 after the date the notice was mailed.

22 "(3) If the voter does not update his or her voter  
23 registration record or does not vote in an election during the  
24 period beginning on the date the notice was mailed and ending  
25 on the day after the date of the second general election for  
26 federal office that occurs after the date the notice was

1 mailed, the voter's name shall be removed from the list of  
2 eligible voters.

3 "(4) If the voter has changed his or her residence  
4 to an address outside of the jurisdiction of the board of  
5 registrars under which he or she is then registered,  
6 information concerning how the voter may continue his or her  
7 eligibility to vote.

8 "(d) The Secretary of State or board of registrars  
9 shall record and maintain in the statewide voter registration  
10 database the dates on which ~~the nonforwardable notice was~~ is  
11 mailed to a registered voter and the card is subsequently  
12 returned to the board ~~and the date on which the forwardable~~  
13 notice was mailed to by the registered voter.

14 ~~"(b) (e)~~ (e) The boards of registrars shall update the  
15 ~~voter list for the county~~ statewide voter registration  
16 database using the information reported to the board by the  
17 registered voters on the ~~address confirmation~~ prepaid  
18 pre-addressed return cards provided for in ~~subsection (a)~~ this  
19 section.

20 "(f) If the registered voter does not respond to the  
21 ~~forwardable notice on which the registered voter may confirm~~  
22 ~~his or her address~~ provided in this section within 90 days of  
23 the date on which the notice was mailed or if the ~~forwardable~~  
24 notice is returned to the board of registrars as  
25 undeliverable, the ~~boards~~ board of registrars or its agent  
26 shall ~~place the name of the registered voter on the inactive~~  
27 ~~list of registered voters and in a suspense file in the office~~

1 of the board. The suspense file shall contain all of the  
2 following information: change the status of the voter to  
3 inactive and indicate in the statewide voter registration  
4 database the date the change is recorded and that the voter  
5 did not respond to the mailing or that the mailing was  
6 returned as undeliverable, in a manner provided by rule by the  
7 Secretary of State.

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

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

10 ~~"(3) At least the last four digits of the Social~~  
11 ~~Security number or other personal identification number of the~~  
12 ~~registered voter.~~

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

15 ~~"(c) The name of a registered voter who does not~~  
16 ~~vote or appear to vote in one of the next two federal~~  
17 ~~elections held after his or her name is placed in the suspense~~  
18 ~~file shall be removed from the voter list.~~

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

22 "(h) The Secretary of State shall adopt rules as  
23 necessary to implement this section.

24 "(i) The Secretary of State may act as an agent for  
25 the boards of registrars in implementing this section."

1                   Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
2 first day of the third month following its passage and  
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.