

26102623D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 966**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 24.2-404 of the Code of Virginia, relating to elections; duties of the*
5 *Department of Elections; Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program (SAVE Program).*

6 Patron—Price

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 24.2-404 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 24.2-404. Duties of Department of Elections.**11 A. The Department of Elections shall provide for the continuing operation and maintenance of a central
12 recordkeeping system, the Virginia voter registration system, for all voters registered in the Commonwealth.

13 In order to operate and maintain the system, the Department shall:

14 1. Maintain a complete, separate, and accurate record of all registered voters in the Commonwealth. Such
15 system shall automatically register a person who has preregistered pursuant to § 24.2-403.1 upon that person
16 becoming eligible for registration under § 24.2-403 or reaching 18 years of age, whichever comes first. Such
17 system shall also assign a unique identifier to each voter registered in the system.18 2. Require the general registrars to enter the names of all registered voters into the system and to change
19 or correct registration records as necessary.20 3. Provide to each general registrar voter confirmation documents for newly registered voters, including
21 voters who were automatically registered pursuant to subdivision 1, and for notice to registered voters on the
22 system of changes and corrections in their registration records and polling places.23 4. Require the general registrars to delete from the record of registered voters the name of any voter who
24 (i) is deceased, (ii) is no longer qualified to vote in the county or city where he is registered due to removal of
25 his residence, (iii) has been convicted of a felony, (iv) has been adjudicated incapacitated, (v) is known not to
26 be a United States citizen by reason of reports from the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to
27 § 24.2-410.1 or from the Department of Elections based on information received from the Systematic Alien
28 Verification for Entitlements Program (SAVE Program) pursuant to subsection E, or (vi) is otherwise no
29 longer qualified to vote as may be provided by law. Such action shall be taken no later than 30 days after
30 notification from the Department. The Department shall promptly provide the information referred to in this
31 subdivision, upon receiving it, to general registrars.32 5. Retain on the system for four years a separate record for registered voters whose names have been
33 deleted, with the reason for deletion.34 6. Retain on the system permanently a separate record for information received regarding deaths, felony
35 convictions, and adjudications of incapacity pursuant to §§ 24.2-408 through 24.2-410.36 7. Provide to each general registrar, at least 16 days prior to a general or primary election and three days
37 prior to a special election, an alphabetical list of all registered voters in each precinct or portion of a precinct
38 in which the election is being held in the county, city, or town. These precinct lists shall be used as the
39 official lists of qualified voters and shall constitute the pollbooks. The Department shall provide instructions
40 for the division of the pollbooks and precinct lists into sections to accommodate the efficient processing of
41 voter lines at the polls. Prior to any general, primary, or special election, the Department shall provide any
42 general registrar, upon his request, with a separate electronic list of all registered voters in the registrar's
43 county or city. If electronic pollbooks are used in the locality or electronic voter registration inquiry devices
44 are used in precincts in the locality, the Department shall provide a regional or statewide list of registered
45 voters to the general registrar of the locality. The Department shall determine whether regional or statewide
46 data is provided. Neither the pollbook nor the regional or statewide list of registered voters shall include the
47 day and month of birth of the voter, but shall include the voter's year of birth.

48 8. Acquire by purchase, lease, or contract equipment necessary to execute the duties of the Department.

49 9. Use any source of information that may assist in carrying out the purposes of this section. All agencies
50 of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Department in procuring and exchanging identification
51 information for the purpose of maintaining the voter registration system. The Department may share any
52 information that it receives from another agency of the Commonwealth with any Chief Election Officer of
53 another state for the maintenance of the voter registration system.54 10. Cooperate with other states and jurisdictions to develop systems to compare voters, voter history, and
55 voter registration lists to ensure the accuracy of the voter registration rolls, to identify voters whose addresses
56 have changed, to prevent duplication of registration in more than one state or jurisdiction, and to determine

INTRODUCED

HB966

59 eligibility of individuals to vote in Virginia.

60 11. Reprint and impose a reasonable charge for the sale of any part of Title 24.2, lists of precincts and
61 polling places, statements of election results by precinct, and any other items required of the Department by
62 law. Receipts from such sales shall be credited to the Board for reimbursement of printing expenses.

63 B. The Department shall be authorized to provide for the production, distribution, and receipt of
64 information and lists through the Virginia voter registration system by any appropriate means including, but
65 not limited to, paper and electronic means. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.)
66 shall not apply to records about individuals maintained in this system.

67 C. The State Board shall institute procedures to ensure that each requirement of this section is fulfilled. As
68 part of its procedures, the State Board shall provide that the general registrar shall mail notice of any
69 cancellation pursuant to clause (v) of subdivision A 4 to the person whose registration is cancelled.

70 D. The State Board shall promulgate rules and regulations to ensure the uniform application of the law for
71 determining a person's residence.

72 E. The Department shall apply to participate in the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements
73 Program (SAVE Program) operated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the U.S. Department of
74 Homeland Security for the ~~purposes~~ *sole purpose* of *individually* verifying that voters listed in the Virginia
75 voter registration system are United States citizens. Upon approval of the application, the Department shall
76 enter into any required memorandum of agreement with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The
77 State Board shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the use of the immigration status and
78 citizenship status information received from the SAVE Program. *The Department shall not (i) use*
79 *information received from the SAVE Program as the sole reason for rejecting a registration application, (ii)*
80 *upload lists of registered voters to the SAVE Program for verifying their citizenship status in bulk, or (iii)*
81 *transfer any information to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or any subdivision thereof beyond the*
82 *minimum information necessary to use the SAVE Program for the purpose provided in this subsection.*

83 F. The Department shall report annually by October 1 for the preceding 12 months ending August 31 to
84 the Committees on Privileges and Elections on each of its activities undertaken to maintain the Virginia voter
85 registration system and the results of those activities. The Department's report shall be governed by the
86 provisions of § 2.2-608 and shall encompass activities undertaken pursuant to subdivisions A 9 and 10 and
87 subsection E and pursuant to §§ 24.2-404.3, 24.2-404.4, 24.2-408, 24.2-409, 24.2-409.1, 24.2-410,
88 24.2-410.1, 24.2-427, and 24.2-428. This report shall contain the methodology used in gathering and
89 analyzing the data. The Commissioner of Elections shall certify that the data included in the report is accurate
90 and reliable.