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## HOUSE BILL NO. 835

## AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections  
on February 24, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate McClure)

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-418, 24.2-506, 24.2-676, 24.2-680, and 24.2-947.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-504.1, relating to elections; candidates and elected officials; address confidentiality.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 24.2-418, 24.2-506, 24.2-676, 24.2-680, and 24.2-947.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-504.1 as follows:**

**§ 24.2-418. Application for registration.**

A. Each applicant to register shall provide, subject to felony penalties for making false statements pursuant to § 24.2-1016, the information necessary to complete the application to register. Unless physically disabled, he shall sign the application. The application to register shall be only on a form or forms prescribed by the State Board.

The form of the application to register shall require the applicant to provide the following information: full name; gender; date of birth; social security number, if any; whether the applicant is presently a United States citizen; address of residence in the precinct; place of last previous registration to vote; and whether the applicant has ever been adjudicated incapacitated and disqualified to vote or convicted of a felony, and if so, whether the applicant's right to vote has been restored. The form shall contain a statement that whoever votes more than once in any election in the same or different jurisdictions is guilty of a Class 6 felony. Unless directed by the applicant or as permitted in § 24.2-411.2 or 24.2-411.3, the registration application shall not be pre-populated with information the applicant is required to provide.

The form of the application to register shall request that the applicant provide his telephone number and email address, but no application shall be denied for failure to provide such information.

B. The form shall permit any individual, as follows, or member of his household, to furnish, in addition to his residence street address, a post office box address located within the Commonwealth to be included in lieu of his street address on the lists of registered voters and persons who voted, which are furnished pursuant to §§ 24.2-405 and 24.2-406, on voter registration records made available for public inspection pursuant to § 24.2-444, or on lists of absentee voter applicants furnished pursuant to § 24.2-706 or 24.2-710. The voter shall comply with the provisions of § 24.2-424 for any change in the post office box address provided under this subsection.

1. Any active or retired law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 9.1-101 and in 5 U.S.C. § 8331(20), but excluding officers whose duties relate to detention as defined in 5 U.S.C. § 8331(20);

2. Any *party person* granted a protective order issued by or under the authority of any court of competent jurisdiction, including but not limited to courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia;

3. Any *party person* who has furnished a signed written statement by the *party person* that he is in fear for his personal safety from another person who has threatened or stalked him;

4. Any *party person* participating in the address confidentiality program pursuant to § 2.2-515.2;

5. Any active or retired federal or Virginia justice, judge, or magistrate and any active or retired attorney employed by the United States Attorney General or Virginia Attorney General;

6. Any person who has been approved to be a foster parent pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 63.2-900 et seq.) of Title 63.2;

7. Any person who is or has been one of the Commonwealth's electors for President and Vice President of the United States; ~~and~~

8. Any person who is or has been a member of the State Board of Elections, the Commissioner of Elections, an employee of the Department of Elections, a member of a local electoral board pursuant to § 24.2-106, a general registrar pursuant to § 24.2-110, a deputy registrar or employee in the office of the general registrar pursuant to § 24.2-112, or an officer of election pursuant to § 24.2-115; *and*

9. *Any person who is or has been an elected official.*

C. If the applicant formerly resided in another state, the general registrar shall send the information contained in the applicant's registration application to the appropriate voter registration official or other authority of another state where the applicant formerly resided, as prescribed in subdivision 15 of § 24.2-114.

**§ 24.2-504.1. Confidentiality of personally identifiable information.**

A. *The custodian of any filing made by a candidate pursuant to this chapter shall not release the address, phone number, or email address of such candidate in response to a request made under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) without written consent of the candidate. If written consent is not*

60 granted or if the candidate does not respond to the custodian's request within five business days, the  
61 information shall be redacted. Nothing in this section shall have any bearing upon disclosures required to be  
62 made pursuant to any court order or subpoena. No exemption from mandatory disclosure shall be construed  
63 to make records or parts of records covered by such exemption privileged under the rules of discovery.

64 B. A candidate shall be permitted to provide the unique identifier assigned to him in the voter registration  
65 system pursuant to subdivision A 1 of § 24.2-404 in place of his residence address on any candidate filing  
66 required pursuant to this chapter.

67 **§ 24.2-506. Petition of qualified voters required; number of signatures required; certain towns**  
68 **excepted.**

69 A. The name of any candidate for any office, other than a party nominee, shall not be printed upon any  
70 official ballots provided for the election unless he shall file along with his declaration of candidacy a petition  
71 therefor, on a form prescribed by the State Board, signed by the number of qualified voters specified in this  
72 subsection on and after January 1 of the year in which the general election is held, or on and after the day on  
73 which the writ of election is issued in the case of a special election, and listing the residence address of each  
74 such voter. Each signature on the petition shall have been witnessed by a person who is not a minor or a felon  
75 whose voting rights have not been restored and whose affidavit to that effect appears on each page of the  
76 petition. Each such person circulating a petition who is not a legal resident of the Commonwealth shall sign a  
77 statement on the affidavit that he consents to the jurisdiction of the courts of Virginia in resolving any  
78 disputes concerning the circulation of petitions, or signatures contained therein, by that person. The  
79 signatures of qualified voters collected by a nonresident petition circulator who fails to sign such statement,  
80 or who later fails to appear or produce documents when properly served with a subpoena to do so, shall not  
81 be counted towards the minimum number of signatures required pursuant to this subsection.

82 Each voter signing the petition may provide on the petition the last four digits of his social security  
83 number, if any; however, noncompliance with this requirement shall not be cause to invalidate the voter's  
84 signature on the petition.

85 The minimum number of signatures of qualified voters required for candidate petitions shall be as  
86 follows:

87 1. For a candidate for the United States Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Attorney General,  
88 10,000 signatures, including the signatures of at least 400 qualified voters from each congressional district in  
89 the Commonwealth;

90 2. For a candidate for the United States House of Representatives, 1,000 signatures;

91 3. For a candidate for the Senate of Virginia, 250 signatures;

92 4. For a candidate for the House of Delegates or for a constitutional office, 125 signatures;

93 5. For a candidate for membership on the governing body or elected school board of any county or city,  
94 125 signatures; or if from an election district not at large containing 1,000 or fewer registered voters, 50  
95 signatures;

96 6. For a candidate for membership on the governing body or elected school board of any town that has  
97 more than 3,500 registered voters, 125 signatures; or if from a ward or other district not at large, 25  
98 signatures;

99 7. For a candidate for membership on the governing body or elected school board of any town that has  
100 at least 1,500 but not more than 3,500 registered voters, 50 signatures; or if from a ward or other district not at  
101 large, 25 signatures;

102 8. For a candidate for membership on the governing body or elected school board of any town that has  
103 fewer than 1,500 registered voters, no petition shall be required;

104 9. For a candidate for director of a soil and water conservation district created pursuant to Article 3  
105 (§ 10.1-506 et seq.) of Chapter 5 of Title 10.1, 25 signatures; and

106 10. For any other candidate, 50 signatures.

107 B. The State Board shall approve uniform standards by which petitions filed by a candidate for office,  
108 other than a party nominee, are reviewed to determine if the petitions contain sufficient signatures of  
109 qualified voters as required in subsection A. *Such standards shall not include a requirement for a candidate*  
110 *for office to provide his residence address or the unique identifier assigned to the voter in the voter*  
111 *registration system pursuant to subdivision A 1 of § 24.2-404 on the petition prior to it being filed.*

112 The State Board of Elections, on or before January 1, 2020, shall revise its processes and associated  
113 regulations for reviewing and processing candidate petitions. Such revisions shall provide a process for  
114 checking petition signatures that includes a method for determining if a petition signature belongs to an  
115 individual whose prior registration has been canceled and the reason for such cancellation. The process shall  
116 provide for the tracking of such information associated with each petition. The process shall provide for the  
117 escalation of cases of suspected fraud to the electoral board, the State Board, or the office of the attorney for  
118 the Commonwealth, as appropriate.

119 C. If a candidate, other than a party nominee, does not qualify to have his name appear on the ballot by  
120 reason of the candidate's filed petition not containing the minimum number of signatures of qualified voters  
121 for the office sought, the candidate may appeal that determination within five calendar days of the issuance of

122 the notice of disqualification pursuant to § 24.2-612 or notice from the State Board that the candidate did not  
123 meet the requirements to have his name appear on the ballot.

124 Appeals made by candidates for a county, city, or town office shall be filed with the electoral board.  
125 Appeals made by candidates for all other offices shall be filed with the State Board. The appeal shall be heard  
126 by the State Board or the electoral board, as appropriate, within five business days of its filing. The electoral  
127 board shall notify the State Board of any appeal that is filed with the electoral board.

128 The State Board shall develop procedures for the conduct of such an appeal. The consideration on appeal  
129 shall be limited to whether or not the signatures on the petitions that were filed were reasonably rejected  
130 according to the requirements of this title and the uniform standards approved by the State Board for the  
131 review of petitions. Immediately after the conclusion of the appeal hearing, the entity conducting the appeal  
132 shall notify the candidate and, if applicable, the State Board, of its decision in writing. The decision on appeal  
133 shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

134 **§ 24.2-676. Secretary to make out and deliver certificate of election.**

135 Immediately after the electoral board has determined the election results, the secretary shall make out  
136 certificates of election for each county, city, town, or district office other than an office shared by more than  
137 one county or city, or any combination thereof. The secretary shall make out the certificate for each of the  
138 persons who has the highest number of votes for the office, who has sufficient votes to be elected to a  
139 multi-member office, or, in case of a tie, who has been decided by lot to be elected. The secretary, or another  
140 board member or registrar designated by the secretary, shall deliver in person or the secretary shall transmit  
141 by certified mail the certificate to the person elected, as soon as such person has complied with the provisions  
142 of § 24.2-948.2. *The certificate shall be delivered to the person declared to be elected with a notice that the*  
143 *person meets the qualifications for being granted protected voter status under the provisions of subsection B*  
144 *of § 24.2-418. The notice shall include instructions for updating the person's voter registration to acquire*  
145 *such protected status.*

146 **§ 24.2-680. Certificates of election.**

147 Subject to the requirements of § 24.2-948.2, the State Board shall without delay complete and transmit to  
148 each of the persons declared to be elected a certificate of his election, certified by it under its seal of office. In  
149 the election of a member of the United States Congress, it shall also forward a certificate of election to the  
150 clerk of the United States Senate or House of Representatives, as appropriate. The names of members elected  
151 to the General Assembly shall be certified by the State Board to the clerk of the House of Delegates or  
152 Senate, as appropriate. The names of the persons elected Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney  
153 General shall be certified by the State Board to the clerks of the House of Delegates and Senate. The name of  
154 any officer shared by more than one county or city, or any combination thereof, shall be certified by the State  
155 Board to the clerk of the circuit court having jurisdiction in each affected county or city. The names of the  
156 persons elected to soil and water conservation districts shall be certified by the State Board to the Director of  
157 the Department of Conservation and Recreation. *The certificate shall be delivered to the person declared to*  
158 *be elected with a notice that the person meets the qualifications for being granted protected voter status*  
159 *under the provisions of subsection B of § 24.2-418. The notice shall include instructions for updating the*  
160 *person's voter registration to acquire such protected status.*

161 **§ 24.2-947.1. Statement of organization.**

162 A. Any individual seeking or campaigning for an office of the Commonwealth or one of its governmental  
163 units in a party nomination process or general, primary, or special election shall file a statement of  
164 organization within 10 days of meeting any one of the following conditions:

- 165 1. Acceptance of a contribution;
- 166 2. Expenditure of any funds;
- 167 3. The payment of a filing fee for any party nomination method;
- 168 4. The filing of a candidate statement of qualification pursuant to § 24.2-501;
- 169 5. The appointment of a campaign treasurer, designation of a campaign committee, or designation of a  
170 campaign depository; or
- 171 6. In the case of a candidate for a town office in a town with a population of less than 25,000 that has not  
172 otherwise adopted the provisions of this chapter by ordinance, acceptance of a contribution or expenditure of  
173 funds that brings the total amount of contributions accepted or funds expended to more than \$25,000 within  
174 the candidate's election cycle, as set forth in § 24.2-947.

175 B. Candidates for statewide office shall file the statement with the State Board. Candidates for the General  
176 Assembly shall file the statement with the State Board and a copy of the statement with the general registrar  
177 of the locality of the candidate's residence. Candidates for local or constitutional office shall file the statement  
178 with the general registrar and, if the statement indicates that the candidate committee will be filing  
179 electronically, a copy with the State Board.

180 C. The statement of organization shall include the following information:

- 181 1. The full name and *either the* residence address of the candidate *or the unique identifier assigned to the*  
182 *candidate in the voter registration system pursuant to subdivision A 1 of § 24.2-404;*
- 183 2. The full name and mailing address for the campaign committee;

- 184 3. The full name, residence address, and daytime phone number of the treasurer;  
185 4. The office being sought and district, if any, for the office;  
186 5. The recognized political party affiliation of the candidate for statewide office or the General Assembly.  
187 In the absence of any political party affiliation, independent shall be used;  
188 6. The name of the financial institution for his campaign depository; and  
189 7. Such other information as shall be required by the State Board except that the account number for a  
190 designated depository account shall not be required.  
191 D. In the case of any candidate who seeks election for successive terms in the same office, the statement  
192 of organization filed by the candidate shall continue in effect for such successive elections, but the candidate  
193 shall file notice of any changes in the information provided on the form within 10 days of the change with the  
194 State Board, general registrar, or both, as appropriate.  
195 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.**