

House Bill 20

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Mitchell of the 88th, Waites of the 60th, Beasley-Teague of the 65th, and Jones of the 53rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to registration of voters, so as to provide for the automatic registration of voters who
3 obtain, renew, or change their name or address on a driver's license or identification card
4 issued by the Department of Driver Services; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 registration of voters, is amended by revising Code Section 21-2-221, relating to driver's
10 license or identification card application as application for voter registration, forms and
11 procedure, and electronic transmission of applications and signatures, as follows:

12 "21-2-221.

13 (a) Prior to allowing any person to complete an application to obtain, renew, or change his
14 or her name or address on a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department
15 of Driver Services pursuant to Chapter 5 of Title 40, other than an application made
16 pursuant to Code Section 40-5-21.1, the Department of Driver Services shall require such
17 person to make a written statement under penalty of perjury of whether such person is a
18 citizen of the United States, is serving a sentence for conviction of a felony involving moral
19 turpitude, or has been found mentally incompetent by a judge. Each application to obtain,
20 renew, or change the name or address on a driver's license or identification card issued by
21 the Department of Driver Services pursuant to Chapter 5 of Title 40, other than an
22 application made pursuant to Code Section 40-5-21.1, made by an applicant who is within
23 six months of such applicant's eighteenth birthday or older, who is a citizen of the United
24 States, who is not serving a sentence for conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude,
25 and who has not been found mentally incompetent by a judge shall also serve as an

26 application for voter registration ~~unless the applicant declines to register to vote through~~
27 ~~specific declination or by failing to sign the voter registration application.~~

28 (b) The commissioner of driver services and the Secretary of State shall agree upon and
29 design such procedures and forms as will be necessary to comply with this Code section.

30 (c) The forms designed by the commissioner of driver services and the Secretary of State:

31 (1) ~~Shall be a single application for purposes of obtaining, renewing, or changing the~~
32 ~~name or address on a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of~~
33 ~~Driver Services and voter registration where the signature of the applicant on such~~
34 ~~application shall perform all required attestations for both purposes not require the~~
35 ~~applicant to duplicate any information required in the driver's license portion of the~~
36 ~~application with the exception of a second signature;~~

37 (2) Shall include such information as required on other voter registration cards issued by
38 the Secretary of State;

39 (3) Shall contain a statement that states each eligibility requirement contained in Code
40 Section 21-2-216, that contains an attestation that the applicant meets each such
41 requirement, and that requires the signature of the applicant under penalty of perjury; and

42 (4) Shall include, in print that is identical to that used in the attestation, the penalties
43 provided by law for submission of a false voter registration application; ~~and a statement~~
44 ~~that, if an applicant declines to register to vote, the fact that the applicant has declined to~~
45 ~~register will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.~~

46 (d) Any change of address submitted to the Department of Driver Services for the purpose
47 of changing the information contained on a driver's license or identification card issued by
48 the Department of Driver Services shall serve as a notification of change of address for
49 voter registration ~~unless the registrant states that at the time of submitting the change of~~
50 ~~address that the change of address is not for voter registration purposes.~~

51 (e) An application completed pursuant to this Code section shall be a completed
52 application for voter registration. The Department of Driver Services shall transmit the
53 completed applications for voter registration to the Secretary of State at the conclusion of
54 each business day. The Secretary of State shall forward the applications to the appropriate
55 county board of registrars to determine the eligibility of the applicant and, if found eligible
56 and if not already registered to vote, to add the applicant's name to the list of electors and
57 to place the applicant in the correct precinct and voting districts.

58 (f) The Department of Driver Services shall maintain such statistical records on the
59 number of registrations and declinations as requested by the Secretary of State.

60 (g) ~~No information relating to the failure of an applicant for a driver's license or~~
61 ~~identification card issued by the Department of Driver Services to sign a voter registration~~
62 ~~application may be used for any purpose other than voter registration.~~

63 (h) The Secretary of State and the commissioner of driver services shall have the authority
64 to promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the transmission of voter registration
65 applications and signatures electronically. Such electronically transmitted signatures shall
66 be valid as signatures on the voter registration application and shall be treated in all
67 respects as a manually written original signature and shall be recognized as such in any
68 matter concerning the voter registration application."

69 **SECTION 2.**

70 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.