

House Bill 522

By: Representatives Nguyen of the 89th, Oliver of the 82nd, Shannon of the 84th, Trammell of the 132nd, Hugley of the 136th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for the means and manner of establishing
3 identity and eligibility to vote for voter registration purposes; to provide for acceptable forms
4 of identification; to provide that the failure to match information on a government data base
5 shall not be grounds to not register a person to vote; to provide for related matters; to provide
6 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and
10 elections generally, is amended by revising Code Section 21-2-220.1, relating to required
11 documentation for voter registration, as follows:

12 "21-2-220.1.

13 (a) Any person applying to register to vote shall provide his or her Georgia driver's license
14 number or identification card number for an identification card issued pursuant to Article 5
15 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 on the voter registration application. If a person does not have a
16 Georgia driver's license or identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of
17 Title 40, such person shall provide the last four digits of his or her social security number
18 on the voter registration application. If a person does not have a Georgia driver's license,
19 a Georgia identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 40, or a
20 social security number, the person shall affirm this fact in the manner prescribed in the
21 voter registration application upon penalty of law ~~and such application shall be processed~~
22 ~~without regard to the procedures outlined in subsections (b), (c), and (d) of this Code~~
23 ~~section.~~

24 ~~(b) For those voter registration applicants who have a Georgia driver's license number or~~
25 ~~identification card number for an identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of~~
26 ~~Chapter 5 of Title 40, or the last four digits of a social security number, a voter registration~~

27 ~~application may be accepted as valid only after the board of registrars has verified the~~
 28 ~~authenticity of the Georgia driver's license number, the identification card number of an~~
 29 ~~identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 40, or the last four~~
 30 ~~digits of the social security number provided by the applicant~~ In the event that the
 31 information provided by the person registering to vote on the voter registration form does
 32 not match information about the applicant on the Department of Driver Services data base,
 33 the HAVV data base of the federal Social Security Administration, or other government
 34 data bases, the applicant shall nevertheless be registered to vote but shall be required to
 35 produce proof of the applicant's identity and eligibility to vote to a county registrar, a
 36 deputy county registrar, a poll manager, or a poll worker at or before the time that such
 37 applicant requests a ballot for the first time in any federal, state, or local election.

38 (c) ~~The authenticity of an applicant's Georgia driver's license number, identification card~~
 39 ~~number of an identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 40, or~~
 40 ~~the last four digits of the social security number may be verified by:~~

41 (1) ~~The board of registrars matching the Georgia driver's license number, identification~~
 42 ~~card number of an identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 5 of~~
 43 ~~Title 40, or the last four digits of the social security number provided by the applicant~~
 44 ~~with the applicant's record on file with the Department of Driver Services or the federal~~
 45 ~~Social Security Administration; or~~

46 (2) ~~The applicant providing sufficient evidence to the board of registrars to verify the~~
 47 ~~applicant's identity, which sufficient evidence includes, but is not limited to, providing~~
 48 ~~one of the forms of identification listed in subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-417~~ Proof
 49 of the applicant's identity and eligibility to vote as set forth in subsection (b) of this Code
 50 section includes, but is not limited to:

51 (1) A current or expired Georgia driver's license;

52 (2) A current or expired Georgia identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of
 53 Chapter 5 of Title 40;

54 (3) A student identification card issued by a Georgia high school, community college,
 55 technical college, university, public or private college, trade school, or other secondary
 56 or postsecondary educational organization;

57 (4) A Georgia hunting or fishing license;

58 (5) A valid driver's license or identification card issued by another state;

59 (6) A military or other federal, state, or local identification card;

60 (7) A federal, state, or local or private company employee identification card;

61 (8) A social security card;

62 (9) An affirmation of the applicant's identity and eligibility to vote by a family member,
63 neighbor, friend, coworker, poll worker, poll manager, election official, or other
64 individual with knowledge of the applicant's identity or eligibility to vote; and

65 (10) Other documentation confirming the identity of the applicant and his or her
66 eligibility to vote in this state.

67 ~~(d)(1) If a completed voter registration application has been received by the registration~~
68 ~~deadline set by Code Section 21-2-224 but the Georgia driver's license number, the~~
69 ~~identification card number of an identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter~~
70 ~~5 of Title 40, or the last four digits of the social security number provided by the applicant~~
71 ~~cannot be verified, the applicant shall be notified that the number cannot be verified and~~
72 ~~that the applicant must provide sufficient evidence to the board of registrars to verify the~~
73 ~~applicant's identity in order to have his or her application processed by the board of~~
74 ~~registrars.~~

75 ~~(2) If the applicant provides such sufficient evidence on or before the date of a primary~~
76 ~~or election, and if the applicant is found eligible to vote, the applicant shall be added to~~
77 ~~the list of electors and shall be permitted to vote in the primary or election and any runoff~~
78 ~~resulting therefrom and subsequent primaries and elections.~~

79 ~~(3) If the applicant has not provided such sufficient evidence or such number has not~~
80 ~~otherwise been verified on or before the date of a primary or election, the applicant~~
81 ~~presenting himself or herself to vote shall be provided a provisional ballot. The~~
82 ~~provisional ballot shall be counted only if such number is verified by the end of the time~~
83 ~~period set forth in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-419 or if the applicant presents~~
84 ~~sufficient evidence to the board of registrars to verify the applicant's identity, by the end~~
85 ~~of the time period set forth in subsection (c) of Code Section 21-2-419.~~

86 ~~(4) The voter application shall be rejected if the Georgia driver's license number,~~
87 ~~identification card number of an identification card issued pursuant to Article 5 of~~
88 ~~Chapter 5 of Title 40, or last four digits of the social security number provided by the~~
89 ~~applicant is not verified and the applicant fails to present sufficient evidence to the board~~
90 ~~of registrars to verify the applicant's identity within 26 months following the date of the~~
91 ~~application.~~

92 ~~(5) This subsection shall not apply to an electronic voter registration application~~
93 ~~submitted pursuant to Code Section 21-2-221.2 No voter registration application which~~
94 ~~is complete on its face shall be cancelled, rejected, or put into pending status solely on~~
95 ~~the grounds that the information on the registration form failed to match information~~
96 ~~about the applicant on the Department of Driver Services, federal Social Security~~
97 ~~Administration, or other government data bases.~~

98

SECTION 2.

99 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
100 without such approval.

101

SECTION 3.

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