



April 6, 2017

Legislative Activity

VOTER ID

IOWA: The Iowa Senate passed a voter ID bill on March 26 on a party-line vote. Iowa voters would need to provide government-issued identification at the polls. House File 516 was initiated by Secretary of State Paul Pate. The bill returns to the House because it was amended by the Senate.

<http://kwit.org/post/voter-id-bill>

To follow the status of the bill:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=87&ba=HF516>

More explanation and analysis:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/855805.pdf>

NORTH DAKOTA: A voter ID bill eliminating an affidavit option passed the Senate. Introduced by House Majority Leader Al Carlson, R-Fargo, the bill requires voters to provide an identification issued by the state Department of Transportation or tribal government. It also includes options for those living in "special circumstances." If the information on the ID isn't current, it could be supplemented with a current utility bill, bank statement or paycheck. The bill does away with the affidavit option available during November's election and instead allows voters who don't have proper ID to cast a ballot that's then set aside until the voter's eligibility is confirmed. House Bill 1369 passed the Senate in a 37-10 vote Monday. The Senate amended the bill slightly so the House would need to agree to the changes before it's sent to Gov. Doug Burgum.

<http://www.inforum.com/news/government/4244931-voter-id-bill-eliminating-affidavit-option-passes-nd-senate#.WOQZaDgD2Ws.twitter>

To follow the status of the bill:

<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/bill-actions/ba1369.html>

TEXAS: A Senate panel cleared legislation on March 13 that would overhaul the state's voter identification rules, an effort to comply with court rulings that the current law discriminates against black and Latino voters. The Senate State Affairs Committee voted 7-0 to send the legislation to the full chamber. Filed by Committee Chairwoman Joan Huffman, Senate Bill 5 would add options for Texas voters who say they cannot "reasonably" obtain one of seven forms of ID currently required at the polls. It would also create harsh criminal penalties for those who falsely claim they need to choose from the expanded list of options. Huffman's bill would allow voters older than 70 to cast ballots using expired but otherwise acceptable photo IDs. The bill would also require the Texas secretary of state to create a mobile program for issuing election identification certificates. <https://www.texastribune.org/2017/03/13/senate-committee-approves-texas-voter-id-overhaul/>

To follow the status of the bill:

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB5>

VOTER RESIDENCY

NEW HAMPSHIRE: SB3 passed through the state Senate on March 30 along party lines, with all 14 Republicans supporting the measure and the nine Democrats in the Senate opposed. It now heads to the House, where House Majority Leader Dick Hinch said, "I think it will come up very quickly." The measure mandates that anyone who registers to vote either prior to or on Election Day itself, thanks to the state's same-day registration law, presents definitive proof that they reside in the Granite State. People who fail to provide such identification could still vote, but would be required to read and sign a form, and then provide proof of residency to city and town clerks within 10 days of voting, or 30 days for towns where offices are only open once a week. That's a quicker time period requirement than current election law dictates. If those documents aren't provided by the deadline, provisions in the bill allow town clerks or other local officials to pay a home visit to obtain a voter's proof of residency. Another provision that would have allowed police to knock on new voters' doors to verify their addresses elicited a lot of pushback and was removed from the bill during the committee process. With Republican Gov. Chris Sununu supportive of the bill, the spotlight now shifts to the House, where Hinch feels passage is a sure thing.

http://www.nh1.com/news/nh1-newsmakers-a-top-state-house-republican-predicts-bill-to-tighten-nh-voter-laws-will-pass-chamber/#.WN_RcZG1zNc.twitter

Another article: <https://patch.com/new-hampshire/concord-nh/state-senate-approves-anti-vote-fraud-nh-residency-bill>

To follow the status of the bill:

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/bill_status.aspx?lsr=883&sy=2017&sortoption=&txtsessionyear=2017&tbillnumber=SB3

MAIL VOTING

MONTANA: Senate Bill 305, which would require an all-mail-in ballot, has stalled in the legislature. A vote was held on March 30 for the bill, which would have allowed counties to choose whether to use all-mail ballots for the special election to fill the congressional seat once held by Ryan Zinke, who is now U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The vote came down to 11-8, meaning Senate Bill 305 is no more, unless a superior majority of House votes or House panel members change their votes.

<http://www.kulr8.com/story/35037498/senate-bill-305-would-have-saved-money-for-taxpayers#.WN717Bbhc7Y.twitter>

LIST MAINTENANCE

VIRGINIA: Governor Terry McAuliffe vetoed multiple voter integrity measures:

SB 1455: Provides that any person who gives, offers, or promises any monetary payment to another in exchange for that person registering to vote is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?171+sum+SB1455>

SB 1581: Requires the general registrars to verify annually that the name, date of birth, and Social Security number in the registration record of each registered voter in the registrar's jurisdiction match the information on file with the Social Security Administration or other database approved by the State Board. The State Board is authorized to approve the use of any government database to the extent required to enable each general registrar to carry out the provisions of this section and to promulgate rules for the use of such database.

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?171+sum+SB1581>

HB 2343: Requires the Department of Elections to provide to the general registrars a list of registered voters who have been found through list comparisons and data-matching exchanges with other states to be registered in another state.

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?171+sum+HB2343>

HB 1428: Requires any voter submitting an application for an absentee ballot by mail or by electronic or telephonic transmission to a facsimile device to submit with his application a copy of one of the forms of identification acceptable under current law.

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?171+sum+HB1428>

SB 1253: Requires electronic poll books to contain the photographs of registered voters that are obtained by the general registrars in the production of voter photo identification cards or contained in a voter's Department of Motor Vehicles record

<https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?171+sum+SB1253>

OTHER BILLS TO WATCH

FLORIDA: SB 1070 and SB 1072, allowing interstate data-sharing, sponsored by Republican Sen. Travis Hutson, passed out of committee; similar legislation, HB 707, sponsored by Republican Rep. Ross Spano.

To monitor the bill: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/01070>
and <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/01072>

LOUISIANA: HB 565, sponsored by Rep. Jay Morris (R), removes the ability of a person to vote by completing an affidavit in lieu of providing a picture identification card that contains the name and signature of the voter. Status: Referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs. - 03/31/2017

To monitor the bill: <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?i=232112>

TEXAS: HB 4000, sponsored by Rep. Ron Simmons (R) relating to the verification of citizenship of an applicant for voter registration. Status: Referred to Elections - 04/03/2017

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/85R/billtext/pdf/HB04000I.pdf#navpanes=0>

Bill language: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/85R/billtext/pdf/HB04000I.pdf#navpanes=0>

HB 3422, sponsored by Rep. Jodie Laubenberg (R), relating to participation by the State of Texas in the interstate voter registration crosscheck program.

HB 3667, sponsored by Rep. Valoree Swanson (R), relating to maintenance of the statewide voter registration list.

To monitor the bills: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/85R/billtext/pdf/HB03422I.pdf#navpanes=0> and <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/85R/billtext/pdf/HB03667I.pdf#navpanes=0>