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Legislative Activity

REGISTRATION RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

NEW HAMPSHIRE: A new law requires that voters moving to the state within 30 days of an election provide proof that they intend to stay and subjects them to an investigation if they can't provide the proof and want to vote in future elections. Republican Gov. Chris Sununu signed the bill into law Monday, effective in 60 days. It provides that those who can't provide proof such as a driver's license or lease would still be allowed to vote, but if they don't follow up with elections officials within 10 to 30 days, authorities could go to their homes to investigate. In cases where officials can't verify someone's address, the voter would be removed from the voter rolls for future elections.

<http://www.startribune.com/new-hampshire-law-toughens-voting-registration-requirements/433843953/>

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

OREGON: As the 2017 legislative session rolls to a close, Senate Democrats are holding up a bill that would reform the Electoral College. The National Popular Vote legislation gained high-profile attention after Hillary Clinton won more votes than President Donald Trump, but lost the election in November. Oregon's bill would allow the state to enter the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, and direct all of Oregon's electoral votes toward the candidate who wins the most votes across the country. The compact would only go into effect after states representing 270 electoral votes agreed to it. Right now, the compact has 168. States such as California, Illinois, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Maryland, Hawaii, along with the District of Columbia, have joined. Legislation is pending in Ohio, Minnesota, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Nevada, Alaska, and Oregon.

<http://www.wweek.com/news/state/2017/07/05/national-popular-vote-legislation-remains-blocked-in-senate-by-democrats/>

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

RHODE ISLAND: A proposal to automatically register qualified voters is moving through the legislature. The state Senate passed its version of the bill. It's expected to pass the version from the state House of Representatives, sending it to the governor's desk for her consideration.

<http://wpri.com/2017/06/30/automatic-voter-registration-bill-advances-in-ri-legislature/>

VOTER ID

NORTH CAROLINA: No voter ID bills were introduced during the just-concluded legislative session, and it's unclear when lawmakers might revisit the issue. Democrat Gov. Roy Cooper said he expects the legislature to pass another voter ID law, and former Republican Gov. Pat McCrory has called for a "clean" voter ID law –

with no other provisions – to be passed immediately. But the Republican-controlled legislature took no action. Lawmakers plan to return for special sessions in August and September.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/under-the-dome/article159235729.html>

NORTH DAKOTA: A recall election in a town of about 45 people is expected to be among the first tests of North Dakota's new voter identification law later this year. The law, passed by the Republican-controlled legislature and signed by Gov. Doug Burgum in late April, goes into effect July 1 along with a swath of other bills.

http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/new-north-dakota-voter-id-law-to-go-into-effect/article_53ec9f9b-512b-58ff-a834-d33df7ae24a7.html

MAIL-IN VOTING

TEXAS: Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud is one of the 20 items on Gov. Greg Abbott's ambitious agenda for the July-August special session. The bill will be authored by state Rep. Craig Goldman, R-Fort Worth, and state Sen. Kelly Hancock, R-North Richland Hills, Abbott's office announced in late June. The city of Dallas is currently investigating allegations of voter fraud in two previous elections. Officials say residents in West Dallas received mail-in ballots they didn't request. Twenty-two states allow some elections to be conducted entirely by mail, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. As of January 2017, three states – Oregon, Washington and Colorado – hold all elections entirely by mail.

<http://www.kvia.com/news/texas/examining-texas-mail-in-voting-law/576315758>

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

MAINE: Although the Maine Supreme Court found ranked choice voting unconstitutional for certain state races, the policy is technically still in effect for certain primary and federal races. Separate bills to repeal before the Maine House and Senate fell short, leaving the law in effect in part until at least next year.

<http://www.pressherald.com/2017/06/28/legislature-fails-to-repeal-voter-passed-ranked-choice-voting-law/>