

SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 4983

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
"Michigan election law,"
by amending sections 493a, 500a, and 501 (MCL 168.493a, 168.500a,
and 168.501), section 493a as added by 2018 PA 603 and sections
500a and 501 as amended by 2018 PA 125, and by adding section 493b.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 493a. (1) Subject to ~~subsections (2) and (3),~~ **this**
2 **section**, the secretary of state shall automatically register to
3 vote each individual who meets the qualifications of an elector
4 under section 492 and who submits an application for an operator's
5 or chauffeur's license issued under the Michigan vehicle code, 1949
6 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923, an official state personal
7 identification card issued under 1972 PA 222, MCL 28.291 to 28.300,

1 or an enhanced driver license or enhanced official state personal
2 identification card issued under the enhanced driver license and
3 enhanced official state personal identification card act, 2008 PA
4 23, MCL 28.301 to 28.308. In addition, subject to ~~subsections (2)~~
5 ~~and (3)~~, **this section**, the secretary of state shall automatically
6 register to vote each individual who meets the qualifications of an
7 elector under section 492 and who submits a change of address
8 application for an operator's or chauffeur's license issued under
9 the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923, an
10 official state personal identification card issued under 1972 PA
11 222, MCL 28.291 to 28.300, or an enhanced driver license or
12 enhanced official state personal identification card issued under
13 the enhanced driver license and enhanced official state personal
14 identification card act, 2008 PA 23, MCL 28.301 to 28.308.

15 **(2) Subject to this subsection, for each individual who**
16 **submits an application under subsection (1) or who is issued a**
17 **graduated licensing status under section 310e of the Michigan**
18 **vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.310e, who provides or has**
19 **provided documentation demonstrating United States citizenship, and**
20 **who is of sufficient age to register to vote, the secretary of**
21 **state shall, if the individual is not already registered to vote in**
22 **this state, add the information required under section 509q(1) (a),**
23 **(b), and (g) to the qualified voter file for that individual and**
24 **electronically forward the individual's information to the clerk of**
25 **the city or township in which the individual resides to have the**
26 **clerk register that individual to vote. For an individual**
27 **registered to vote under this subsection, the qualified voter file**
28 **must include an indication that the individual was registered to**
29 **vote under this section. Subject to this subsection, the secretary**

1 of state shall send to the individual's residence address, by
2 nonforwardable mail, a notice that the individual has been
3 registered to vote and a postage prepaid and preaddressed return
4 form by which the individual may decline the voter registration.
5 The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of the notice
6 described in this subsection. In addition, the secretary of state
7 shall develop procedures for processing a voter registration under
8 this subsection for an individual who has previously declined voter
9 registration under subsection (4).

10 (3) The notice mailed to an individual under subsection (2)
11 must include all of the following:

12 (a) An explanation of the eligibility requirements to register
13 to vote, and a statement that if the individual is not eligible to
14 vote, the individual must decline the voter registration by using
15 the postage prepaid and preaddressed return form.

16 (b) A statement that an individual may decline the voter
17 registration. The statement must also indicate that if the
18 individual declines the voter registration, the fact that the
19 individual declined the voter registration remains confidential and
20 can be used only for purposes of voter registration statistics. The
21 statement must also indicate that if the individual remains
22 registered to vote, the office at which the individual was
23 registered to vote remains confidential and can be used only for
24 voter registration purposes.

25 (c) Information on how a registered elector may cast an absent
26 voter ballot.

27 (4) If an individual returns a notice mailed under subsection
28 (2) and declines the voter registration, that individual is
29 considered to never have been registered to vote and any

1 information added to the qualified voter file for that individual
 2 must be removed. However, if an individual has voted in an election
 3 and then returns a notice mailed under subsection (2) that declines
 4 the voter registration, the secretary of state's office shall
 5 contact that individual to determine whether the individual wishes
 6 to decline the voter registration or remain registered to vote.

7 (5) If a notice mailed under subsection (2) is returned to the
 8 secretary of state by the post office as undeliverable, the
 9 qualified voter file must generate a notification to the clerk of
 10 the city or township in which that individual resides to have the
 11 clerk mail the individual a notice required under section 509aa(3).
 12 If an individual returns a notice mailed under subsection (2)
 13 without selecting the option to decline the voter registration, the
 14 individual remains registered to vote.

15 (6) ~~(2) For purposes of~~ The secretary of state shall not
 16 provide an opportunity to register to vote or automatically
 17 register to vote any individual who, when submitting an application
 18 under subsection (1), provides documentation demonstrating that the
 19 individual is not a United States citizen. Subject to this
 20 subsection, for any other individual who submits an application
 21 under subsection (1) who has not provided documentation
 22 demonstrating United States citizenship, but who is of sufficient
 23 age to register to vote, the secretary of state shall ~~only~~
 24 ~~automatically offer to register to vote an~~ that individual ~~who~~ if
 25 the individual indicates on ~~his or her~~ the individual's operator's
 26 or chauffeur's license application, official state personal
 27 identification card application, or change of address application
 28 that ~~he or she~~ the individual is a citizen of the United States.

29 ~~(3)~~ The secretary of state shall add the information required

1 under section 509q(1) (a), (b), and (g) to the qualified voter file
 2 for each elector registered under this subsection and shall
 3 electronically forward the name of each elector registered under
 4 this subsection to the clerk of the city or township in which each
 5 elector resides to have the clerk register that individual to vote.
 6 For an individual registered under this subsection, the qualified
 7 voter file must include an indication that the individual was
 8 registered to vote under this section. For purposes of this
 9 subsection only, the secretary of state shall not automatically
 10 register to vote an individual **under this subsection** who indicates
 11 on the **individual's** operator's or chauffeur's license application,
 12 official state personal identification card application, ~~enhanced~~
 13 ~~driver license application, enhanced official state personal~~
 14 ~~identification card application,~~ or change of address application
 15 that ~~he or she~~ **the individual** declines to use the application as a
 16 voter registration application. The secretary of state shall not
 17 transmit any information to the qualified voter file regarding any
 18 individual who declines **under this subsection** to use an application
 19 described in this section as a voter registration application.

20 ~~(4) The secretary of state shall add any information required~~
 21 ~~under section 509q to the qualified voter file for each elector~~
 22 ~~registered under subsection (1) and shall forward the name of each~~
 23 ~~elector registered under this section to the clerk of the city or~~
 24 ~~township in which each elector registered resides.~~

25 **(7) The secretary of state shall use the procedures in**
 26 **subsections (2) to (6) to preregister any individual who meets the**
 27 **qualifications to preregister to vote under section 496a and who**
 28 **submits an application under subsection (1). The procedures in**
 29 **subsections (2) to (5) must be used for each individual who submits**

1 an application under subsection (1), or who is issued a graduated
2 licensing status under section 310e of the Michigan vehicle code,
3 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.310e, who provides or has provided
4 documentation demonstrating United States citizenship, and who is
5 of sufficient age to preregister to vote. The notice and procedures
6 required in subsections (2) to (5) must be modified to reflect that
7 the individual has been preregistered to vote, not registered to
8 vote. The procedures in subsection (6) must be used for each
9 individual who submits an application under subsection (1) and who
10 has not provided documentation demonstrating United States
11 citizenship, but is of sufficient age to preregister to vote,
12 except that the secretary of state shall not provide an opportunity
13 to preregister to vote or automatically preregister to vote any
14 individual who, at the time of submitting an application under
15 subsection (1), provides documentation demonstrating that the
16 individual is not a United States citizen.

17 (8) ~~(5)~~—An individual who is not eligible to vote and who,
18 without intending to register to vote, becomes registered to vote
19 through human or mechanical error is not considered to have
20 knowingly intended to register to vote in violation of section 519.

21 (9) If an individual who is not eligible to vote becomes
22 registered to vote under subsection (2) or section 493b and votes
23 or attempts to vote in an election held after the effective date of
24 the individual's voter registration, that individual is presumed to
25 have a defense for a violation under section 932a(c). This
26 subsection does not apply to an individual who knowingly and
27 willfully makes a false statement to effectuate voter registration
28 or who intentionally takes voluntary action to register to vote or
29 vote knowing that the individual is not entitled to vote.

1 (10) Nothing in this section shall be construed to amend the
2 substantive qualifications for voter registration in this state, or
3 to require documentary proof of United States citizenship for voter
4 registration.

5 (11) The secretary of state shall publicly release data
6 reports, as described in this subsection, on a monthly basis. The
7 data reports must not include any personally identifying
8 information, must be subcategorized by sex and age of the
9 individuals included, and must include all of the following
10 information:

11 (a) The number of individuals registered to vote or
12 preregistered to vote under the procedures in subsections (2) to
13 (5).

14 (b) The number of individuals who declined voter registration
15 or voter preregistration under the procedures in subsections (2) to
16 (5).

17 (c) The number of individuals registered to vote or
18 preregistered to vote under the procedures in subsection (6).

19 (d) The number of individuals who declined voter registration
20 or voter preregistration under the procedures in subsection (6).

21 (e) The number of individuals whose voter registration or
22 voter preregistration was updated pursuant to the requirement under
23 sections 509o and 509r that the secretary of state use the
24 residence address provided on a driver license or state personal
25 identification card application as the applicant's residence
26 address in the qualified voter file.

27 Sec. 493b. (1) If the secretary of state verifies that a state
28 agency in the regular course of business collects sufficient
29 information, including through documents or database verification,

1 to confirm the eligibility for voter registration or the updating
2 of information for an existing voter registration, the secretary of
3 state may designate that state agency as an automatic voter
4 registration agency. Once a state agency is designated as an
5 automatic voter registration agency, that state agency must not be
6 removed as an automatic voter registration agency unless it is
7 shown that the state agency no longer collects sufficient
8 information to confirm the eligibility for voter registration or
9 the updating of information for an existing voter registration.

10 (2) If a state agency is designated as an automatic voter
11 registration agency under subsection (1), that state agency and the
12 secretary of state shall jointly establish a procedure and schedule
13 for automatically and electronically transmitting voter
14 registration information from the state agency to the secretary of
15 state for those individuals who are eligible to register to vote or
16 preregister to vote, or to update information in the qualified
17 voter file for those individuals who are already registered to vote
18 or preregistered to vote. Subject to any instructions issued and
19 determined necessary by the secretary of state to conform with a
20 designated state agency transaction, each designated state agency
21 under subsection (1), the secretary of state, and the clerk of each
22 city and township must comply with the procedures under section
23 493a for automatically registering and preregistering individuals
24 to vote.

25 (3) If information is received under subsection (2) for an
26 individual who is already registered to vote or preregistered to
27 vote, the secretary of state shall use the most recent information
28 for the residence address or name of the individual received from
29 the state agency to update the individual's information in the

1 qualified voter file. The secretary of state shall send to the
2 individual's new residence address, by forwardable mail, notice of
3 the change and a postage prepaid and preaddressed return form by
4 which the individual may verify or correct the information. If the
5 individual returns the notice and indicates that the change to the
6 individual's record was in error, the secretary of state must
7 immediately revert the individual's updated information in the
8 qualified voter file to the information as it existed before the
9 update.

10 (4) Subject to compliance with all applicable federal laws and
11 regulations, as part of an application for Medicaid coverage to the
12 department of health and human services, the department of health
13 and human services shall automatically and electronically transmit
14 the information required under section 509q(1) (a), either the
15 information required under section 509q(1) (b) or the last 4 digits
16 of the individual's Social Security number, and the individual's
17 digitized signature, if available, to the secretary of state for
18 each individual who is of sufficient age to register to vote or
19 preregister to vote and who is verified as a United States citizen.
20 Subject to any instructions issued and determined necessary by the
21 secretary of state to conform with the structure of a department of
22 health and human services application, in processing the
23 information received from the department of health and human
24 services under this subsection, the secretary of state and each
25 city or township clerk shall comply with the requirements
26 established under section 493a(2) to (5) and (7) for automatically
27 registering and preregistering individuals to vote, and the
28 requirements established under subsection (3) for updating
29 information for individuals who are already registered to vote or

1 preregistered to vote.

2 (5) Subject to compliance with all applicable federal laws and
3 regulations, an Indian nation or tribe located in this state may,
4 at its discretion, submit a request to the secretary of state for
5 approval to allow the governing body of the Indian nation or tribe,
6 or an election board, election official, or other designated
7 representative of the Indian nation or tribe, to electronically
8 submit the information required under section 509q(1)(a), either
9 the information required under section 509q(1)(b) or the last 4
10 digits of the individual's Social Security number, and the
11 individual's digitized signature, if available, for any tribal
12 member to the secretary of state for the purpose of registering and
13 preregistering tribal members to vote or for updating the
14 registration or preregistration information of tribal members. If
15 an Indian nation or tribe submits a request under this subsection
16 and the Indian nation's or tribe's governing body, election board,
17 election official, or other designated representative collects
18 sufficient information, including through documents or database
19 verification, to confirm the eligibility for registration or for
20 updating the information for an existing voter registration, the
21 secretary of state shall enter into a memorandum of understanding
22 with the Indian nation or tribe regarding transmission and
23 processing of information for purposes of voter registration.
24 Subject to any instructions issued and determined necessary by the
25 secretary of state to conform with Indian nation or tribal
26 procedures, in processing information received under this
27 subsection, the secretary of state and each city or township clerk
28 shall comply with the requirements established under section
29 493a(2) to (5) and (7) for automatically registering and

1 preregistering individuals to vote, and the requirements
2 established under subsection (3) for updating information for
3 individuals who are already registered to vote or preregistered to
4 vote.

5 (6) The secretary of state and the department of corrections
6 shall coordinate to ensure that eligible individuals are
7 automatically registered to vote, with the opportunity to decline
8 the voter registration, on release from incarceration imposed as a
9 sentence for a crime. Subject to this subsection, for individuals
10 scheduled to be released on parole, or discharged on completion of
11 the individual's maximum sentence, and who will be issued an
12 operator's or chauffeur's license under the Michigan vehicle code,
13 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923, an official state personal
14 identification card under 1972 PA 222, MCL 28.291 to 28.300, or an
15 enhanced driver license or enhanced official state personal
16 identification card under the enhanced driver license and enhanced
17 official state personal identification card act, 2008 PA 23, MCL
18 28.301 to 28.308, the secretary of state and the department of
19 corrections shall use the procedures under section 493a(2) to (7)
20 to comply with this subsection. However, an individual must not be
21 registered to vote until the individual's release on parole or
22 discharge on completion of the individual's maximum sentence. The
23 procedures under section 493a(2) to (5) must be used for each
24 individual who submits an application for an operator's or
25 chauffeur's license under the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300,
26 MCL 257.1 to 257.923, an official state personal identification
27 card under 1972 PA 222, MCL 28.291 to 28.300, or an enhanced driver
28 license or enhanced official state personal identification card
29 under the enhanced driver license and enhanced official state

1 personal identification card act, 2008 PA 23, MCL 28.301 to 28.308,
2 who provides or has provided documentation demonstrating United
3 States citizenship, and who is of sufficient age to register to
4 vote. The notice and procedures required under section 493a(2) to
5 (5) must be modified to reflect that the individual is not
6 registered to vote until released on parole or discharged on
7 completion of the individual's maximum sentence. Subject to this
8 subsection, the procedures under section 493a(6) must be used for
9 each individual who submits an application for an operator's or
10 chauffeur's license under the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300,
11 MCL 257.1 to 257.923, or an official state personal identification
12 card under 1972 PA 222, MCL 28.291 to 28.300, and who has not
13 provided documentation demonstrating United States citizenship but
14 is of sufficient age to register to vote. However, the secretary of
15 state shall not provide an opportunity to register to vote or
16 automatically register to vote any individual who, at the time of
17 submitting an application for an operator's or chauffeur's license
18 under the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923,
19 or an official state personal identification card under 1972 PA
20 222, MCL 28.291 to 28.300, provides documentation demonstrating
21 that the individual is not a United States citizen. The secretary
22 of state and the department of corrections shall jointly ensure
23 that an individual is not registered to vote under this subsection
24 until the individual has been released on parole or discharged on
25 completion of the individual's maximum sentence. For any individual
26 who is released from incarceration imposed as a sentence for a
27 crime and who is not otherwise subject to this subsection, the
28 department of corrections and the secretary of state shall, as
29 provided under subsection (2), jointly establish a procedure and

1 schedule for automatically and electronically transmitting voter
2 registration information from the department of corrections to the
3 secretary of state for those individuals who are eligible to
4 register or preregister to vote.

5 (7) The secretary of state shall develop procedures for
6 processing electronic records received from a state agency
7 designated as an automatic voter registration agency, or from an
8 Indian nation or tribe under this section, that do not include a
9 digitized image of the applicant's signature.

10 Sec. 500a. ~~(1)~~The secretary of state or the secretary of
11 state's agent shall ~~afford~~**ensure that** an individual who appears in
12 a department of state branch office or an individual who applies
13 for renewal of an operator's or chauffeur's license under section
14 307 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.307, **is**
15 **afforded** an opportunity ~~to complete an application to register to~~
16 ~~vote or to change the individual's voting registration name or~~
17 ~~address, if the applicant possesses the qualifications of an~~
18 ~~elector on the date of application or will possess the~~
19 ~~qualifications at the next election. This subsection~~**section** ~~does~~
20 ~~not require a registered elector to periodically reregister or to~~
21 ~~renew his or her~~**the elector's** registration. ~~The application for~~
22 ~~registration made under this section must contain all of the~~
23 ~~information required for a registration application as provided in~~
24 ~~section 495.~~

25 ~~(2) The applicant shall sign the application. Upon receipt of~~
26 ~~the application, the agent shall sign the application and provide~~
27 ~~the applicant with a receipt verifying the registration~~
28 ~~application. The agent shall promptly forward the application to~~
29 ~~the county clerk of the applicant's residence or to a city or~~

1 ~~township clerk designated by the secretary of state.~~

2 Sec. 501. The master registration cards must be filed
3 alphabetically and must be termed the "master file". ~~The~~ **Subject to**
4 **section 493b(7), the** master file must contain the signature of each
5 elector registered in the city or township, unless the clerk of the
6 jurisdiction has access to the qualified voter file and the elector
7 has a digitized signature in the qualified voter file. If an
8 elector is unable to write, or sign ~~his or her~~ **the elector's** name
9 because of a physical disability, the master file must contain the
10 mark or signature stamp used by that elector when a signature is
11 required.

12 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect June 30,
13 2025.

14 Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect
15 unless House Bill No. 4569 of the 102nd Legislature is enacted into
16 law.