

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2237

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Dever, Triplett

Representative L. Meier

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 16.1-02-07, 16.1-02-09, 16.1-02-13, and
2 16.1-02-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the central voter file.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-02-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **16.1-02-07. Reporting changes of names - Changes to records in the central voter**
7 **file.** The state court administrator shall provide for the regular reporting to the secretary of
8 state the name, address, date of birth, and county of residence, if available, of each individual
9 eighteen years of age or older whose name was changed by divorce or any order or decree of
10 the court since the last report. Within sixty days after receiving the report, the secretary of state
11 shall make the name changes in the central voter file and notify by mail each individual whose
12 name was changed that the individual's name has been changed accordingly in the central
13 voter file. The secretary of state shall prepare and distribute a list of those individuals to each
14 county auditor. Any individual who has obtained a protection order under section 14-07.1-03 or
15 who is protected by a disorderly conduct restraining order under section 12.1-31.2-01 must be
16 listed in the central voter file with a "secured active" designation. A "secured active"
17 designation means a record maintained as an active voter for pollbook purposes, but otherwise
18 is an exempt record. The state court administrator or the bureau of criminal investigation shall
19 make available upon request of the secretary of state the name of each individual who has
20 obtained such an order.

21 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-02-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **16.1-02-09. Department of transportation to report updates to the secretary of**
24 **state - Changes to records in the central voter file.**

- 1 1. The department of transportation shall report regularly to the secretary of state any
- 2 relevant changes and updates to records maintained by the department of
- 3 transportation which may require changes and updates to be made to records of
- 4 individuals contained in the central voter file.
- 5 2. The county auditor may change the designation of individuals contained in the
- 6 central voter file whose change of address can be confirmed by the United States
- 7 postal service. The secretary of state may provide each county auditor with
- 8 periodic reports on any individual whose change of address can be confirmed by
- 9 the United States postal service.
- 10 3. ~~If an individual makes a written request to the county auditor for removal of the~~
- 11 ~~individual's record from the central voter file, the county auditor shall change the~~
- 12 ~~designation of the individual contained in the central voter file to "inactive".~~
- 13 4. If a qualified elector makes a written request to the county auditor for inclusion in
- 14 the central voter file, the county auditor shall collect the required information from
- 15 the individual and add the individual's name to the central voter file with the
- 16 designation of "inactive".

17 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-02-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19 **16.1-02-13. Information contained in pollbooks generated from the central voter**
20 **file.** The county auditor shall generate a pollbook for each precinct in the county from the
21 central voter file by the day before an election. With the exception of a record designated
22 "secured active" and the unique identifier, which ~~is an~~ are exempt ~~record~~ records, the precinct
23 pollbooks are open records under section 44-04-18. Between the fifteenth day before the
24 election and the day of the election, no changes or updates to records of individuals contained
25 in the central voter file or a pollbook generated from the central voter file may be made, other
26 than changes related to the status of an individual voting early or an individual requesting and
27 returning an absent voter's ballot. The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures for
28 generating pollbooks and for transporting the pollbooks to the election judges for use on
29 election day. Pollbooks generated from the central voter file must contain the following
30 information for each individual contained therein:

- 31 1. The complete legal name of the individual.

2. The complete residential address of the individual.
3. The complete mailing address of the individual, if different from the individual's residential address.
4. The unique identifier generated and assigned to the individual.
5. The county, legislative district, city or township, school district, county commissioner district, if applicable, precinct name, and precinct number in which the individual resides. A ballot-style code identifying this information may be used in place of the information required by this subsection.
6. Any other information requested of and obtained from the individual deemed necessary by the secretary of state for the proper administration of the pollbook.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-02-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-02-15. Voter lists and reports may be made available for election-related purposes - Funds received. Except as otherwise provided by law, a voter list or a report generated from the central voter file may be made available to a candidate, political party, or a political committee for election-related purposes. Any information obtained by a candidate, political party, or political committee for election-related purposes from a list or report generated from the central voter file may not be sold or distributed for a purpose that is not election-related. Except for information identified in the central voter file under subsections 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of section 16.1-02-12, which may be made available to a candidate, political party, or political committee for election-related purposes, information in the central voter file is an exempt record. An individual's record that is designated as "secured active" is an exempt record and is not available to any candidate, political party, or political committee for any purpose. Any funds received by the secretary of state to pay the cost of producing a report or list of voters contained in the central voter file must be deposited in the secretary of state's general services operating fund.