

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0486.01 Kate Meyer x4348

HOUSE BILL 16-1093

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ransom,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Tate,

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House Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING MEASURES TO INCREASE THE ACCURACY OF ELECTOR  
102 INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE STATEWIDE VOTER  
103 REGISTRATION DATABASE.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/bills summaries>.)*

The bill makes various updates and corrections to the laws setting forth the ways in which elector information is processed, recorded, and changed pursuant to the "Uniform Election Code of 1992".

**Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5** of the bill align terminology and practices with the current definition of "confirmation card", which applies only to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

correspondence that is sent via forwardable mail to an elector's address of record.

Section 3 also describes the procedures for county clerks and recorders to follow when the secretary of state's monthly search of the national change of address database maintained by the United States postal service (USPS) indicates that the USPS has received returned mail indicating that an elector is no longer at an address to which returned mail was delivered.

Current law describes procedures for county clerks and recorders to follow when a new voter notification is returned as undeliverable within 20 days. **Section 4** adds procedures to follow when such notifications are returned after 20 days.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-1-104, **amend** (2.8)  
3 introductory portion as follows:

4 **1-1-104. Definitions.** As used in this code, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6 (2.8) "Confirmation card" means a communication mailed from  
7 a county clerk and recorder to an elector pursuant to ~~section 1-2-302.5,~~  
8 ~~1-2-509~~ SECTION 1-2-302.5 (2) (b) (III), 1-2-509 (3) (b) (III), or 1-2-605,  
9 which card must:

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-1-110, **amend** (4)  
11 (a) and (5) (a) introductory portion; and **repeal** (4) (c) as follows:

12 **1-1-110. Powers of county clerk and recorder and deputy -**  
13 **communication to electors.** (4) (a) Except as otherwise provided in  
14 ~~paragraph (c) of this subsection (4) or in section 1-2-204 (2)~~ SECTION  
15 1-2-302.5, any communication by mail from the county clerk and recorder  
16 to any registered elector pursuant to this title ~~including a confirmation~~  
17 ~~card,~~ must be sent to the elector's address of record.

18 (c) ~~A county clerk and recorder shall send a confirmation card in~~  
19 ~~accordance with section 1-2-302.5.~~

1 (5) (a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection (5) and  
2 notwithstanding any other provision of law, an elector may request to  
3 receive elections communication, except for ballots, ~~and~~ confirmation  
4 cards, OR CORRESPONDENCE SENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION  
5 1-2-302.5 OR 1-2-509 (3), from his or her county clerk and recorder by  
6 electronic transmission. With the request, the elector must submit an  
7 electronic-mail address to which the county clerk and recorder may send  
8 communication from the county clerk and recorder. The county clerk and  
9 recorder, upon receiving the request, may send all future elections  
10 communication, except for ballots, ~~and~~ confirmation cards, OR  
11 CORRESPONDENCE SENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1-2-302.5 OR  
12 1-2-509 (3), by electronic transmission to the electronic-mail address  
13 provided by the elector; except that:

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-2-302.5, **amend** (2)  
15 (b) (I) and (2) (b) (III) introductory portion; **repeal** (2) (b) (II); and **add**  
16 (4.5) as follows:

17 **1-2-302.5. Change of address search - rules.** (2) (b) If any  
18 search of the national change of address database administered by the  
19 United States postal service conducted under this section indicates an  
20 elector has permanently moved, the county clerk and recorder shall act as  
21 follows:

22 (I) (A) If the search indicates that the elector moved within the  
23 ~~county~~ STATE, the county clerk and recorder OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH  
24 THE ELECTOR'S NEW ADDRESS IS LOCATED shall mark the elector's  
25 registration record as "Active" and update the elector's registration record  
26 with the elector's new address and send, ~~a confirmation card in~~  
27 ~~accordance with section 1-2-605~~ BY POSTAGE PREPAID FORWARDABLE

1 MAIL, CORRESPONDENCE to the elector's old address INDICATING THE  
2 CHANGE.

3 (B) If the elector returns the ~~confirmation card~~ CORRESPONDENCE  
4 sent pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) of this subparagraph (I) and  
5 indicates ~~the elector~~ THAT HE OR SHE has not moved, the county clerk and  
6 recorder OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE ELECTOR'S OLD ADDRESS IS  
7 LOCATED shall ~~forthwith~~ IMMEDIATELY correct the elector's previously  
8 updated address in the statewide voter registration database.

9 (C) If the elector returns the ~~confirmation card affirming~~  
10 CORRESPONDENCE CONFIRMING the new address, ~~if the confirmation card~~  
11 ~~is returned as undeliverable~~, or if the elector does not return the  
12 ~~confirmation card~~ CORRESPONDENCE, the county clerk and recorder shall  
13 leave the elector's new address and status as updated in the registration  
14 record pursuant to sub-subparagraph (A) of this subparagraph (I).

15 (II) ~~(A) If the search indicates that the elector moved to a different~~  
16 ~~county within the state, the county clerk and recorder shall send a~~  
17 ~~confirmation card to the elector's new address in accordance with section~~  
18 ~~1-2-605.~~

19 ~~(B) If the elector returns the confirmation card and confirms his~~  
20 ~~or her new address, the county clerk and recorder shall forthwith notify~~  
21 ~~the county clerk and recorder of the county to which the elector moved,~~  
22 ~~and the county clerk and recorder of the new county shall forthwith~~  
23 ~~update the elector's address in the statewide voter registration database.~~

24 ~~(C) If the elector returns the confirmation card and indicates that~~  
25 ~~the elector has not moved, or if the elector does not return the~~  
26 ~~confirmation card, the county clerk and recorder may not change the~~  
27 ~~elector's registration record.~~

1 (III) If the search indicates that the elector moved to a different  
2 state, the county clerk and recorder shall mark the elector's registration  
3 record "Inactive" and send a confirmation card ~~in accordance with section~~  
4 ~~1-2-605, to the elector's new address~~ and:

5 (4.5) (a) IF THE SEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
6 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION INDICATES THAT  
7 THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAS RECEIVED RETURNED MAIL  
8 INDICATING THAT THE ELECTOR IS NO LONGER AT THE ADDRESS TO WHICH  
9 THE RETURNED MAIL WAS DELIVERED, THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER  
10 SHALL SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE ELECTOR REQUESTING THAT THE  
11 ELECTOR CONFIRM HIS OR HER ADDRESS.

12 (b) (I) IF THE ELECTOR RETURNS THE CORRESPONDENCE AND  
13 INDICATES THAT HE OR SHE HAS A NEW ADDRESS, THE COUNTY CLERK AND  
14 RECORDER SHALL UPDATE THE ELECTOR'S REGISTRATION RECORD.

15 (II) IF THE ELECTOR RETURNS THE CORRESPONDENCE AND  
16 INDICATES THAT HE OR SHE HAS NOT MOVED, OR IF THE ELECTOR DOES NOT  
17 RETURN THE CORRESPONDENCE, THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER  
18 SHALL NOT CHANGE THE ELECTOR'S REGISTRATION RECORD.

19 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-2-509, **amend** (3)  
20 as follows:

21 **1-2-509. Reviewing voter registration applications -**  
22 **notification.** (3) (a) Within ten business days after receipt of the  
23 application, the county clerk and recorder shall notify each applicant of  
24 the disposition of the application by nonforwardable mail AND PROCEED  
25 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (3).

26 (b) (I) If within twenty business days after receipt of the  
27 application the notification is returned to the county clerk and recorder as

1 undeliverable, the applicant shall not be registered.

2 (II) If the notification is not returned within twenty business days  
3 as undeliverable, then the applicant shall be deemed registered as of the  
4 date of the application; except that, if the applicant was notified that the  
5 application was not complete, then the applicant ~~shall be~~ IS deemed  
6 registered as of the date of the application if the additional information is  
7 provided at any time prior to the actual voting. If such applicant does not  
8 provide the additional information necessary to make his or her  
9 application complete and accurate within twenty-four months after  
10 notification is sent pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the applicant  
11 ~~will be required to~~ MUST reapply in order to be registered.

12 (III) IF THE NOTIFICATION IS RETURNED TO THE COUNTY CLERK  
13 AND RECORDER AS UNDELIVERABLE AFTER TWENTY DAYS AFTER RECEIPT  
14 OF THE APPLICATION, THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER SHALL MARK  
15 THE APPLICANT'S REGISTRATION RECORD "INACTIVE" AND SEND A  
16 CONFIRMATION CARD.

17 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-2-605, **amend** (1)  
18 (a) and (1) (b); and **repeal** (2) as follows:

19 **1-2-605. Canceling registration - procedures.**

20 (1) (a) ~~Communication~~ CORRESPONDENCE by mail from the county clerk  
21 and recorder to a registered elector of a county must ~~be in the form of a~~  
22 ~~confirmation card and must~~ include, at a minimum, the elector's name and  
23 address. ~~and precinct number. The county clerk and recorder shall mail~~  
24 ~~the card to the elector's address of record unless the elector has requested~~  
25 ~~that the county clerk and recorder send the card to his or her deliverable~~  
26 ~~mailing address pursuant to section 1-2-204 (2) (k).~~

27 (b) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS

1 PARAGRAPH (b), if ~~an elector's confirmation card~~ CORRESPONDENCE  
2 DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1) IS RETURNED BY THE  
3 UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS UNDELIVERABLE, THE COUNTY CLERK AND  
4 RECORDER SHALL MARK THE ELECTOR'S REGISTRATION RECORD "INACTIVE" AND MAIL  
5 THE ELECTOR A CONFIRMATION CARD.

6 (II) IF CORRESPONDENCE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS  
7 SUBSECTION (1) IS RETURNED BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS  
8 UNDELIVERABLE AND THE ELECTOR'S REGISTRATION RECORD IS ALREADY  
9 MARKED "INACTIVE", THE COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER SHALL NOT  
10 MODIFY THE RECORD AND MAY NOT MAIL THE ELECTOR A CONFIRMATION  
11 CARD.

12 (2) ~~If an active registered elector fails to vote in a general election,~~  
13 ~~the county clerk and recorder shall mail the elector a confirmation card.~~  
14 ~~If the elector returns the confirmation card confirming the elector's~~  
15 ~~information or if the elector does not return the confirmation card, the~~  
16 ~~elector remains active. If the confirmation card is returned by the United~~  
17 ~~States postal service as undeliverable, the county clerk and recorder shall~~  
18 ~~mark the elector's registration record "Inactive".~~

19 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
21 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.