

SB 672/Senate Rules Committee Substitute (Laws of 2019, Chapter 67)
SUMMARY – EARLY AND AUTO VOTER REGISTRATION

Section 1 of SB 672/CS enacts new provisions of law in Chapter 1, Article 4 of the NM Election Code relating to the Registration of Electors to provide to a “qualified elector”, notwithstanding the current 28 day deadline closing voter registration prior to “any election” pursuant to Section 1-4-8 NMSA 1978, the opportunity to register or update an existing certificate of registration: 1) at a voting location immediately before voting in that election, or; 2) at an “alternate voting location near the clerk’s office” during regular business hours and on the third Saturday prior to the election through the Saturday immediately prior to the election.

Also, the new law:

- requires a qualified elector to sign an affidavit under oath that the elector has not voted in the election before registering to vote or updating a registration at an early voting site (Laws of 2019, Chapter 67, Section 1, page 1, lines 10-19);
- prohibits a voter from changing party affiliation when registering or updating a registration at an early voting site during a primary election (Laws of 2019, Chapter 67, page 3, lines 7-10);
- beginning January 1, 2021, permits a qualified elector to register to vote or update a registration at a voting location on a statewide election day (Laws of 2019, Chapter 67, page 2 starting on line 22 through page 3, line 6);
- specifies the acceptable documentation (NM driver’s license or NM ID card issued by the NM Motor Vehicle Division of the NM Taxation and Revenue Department, OR “any document that contains an address in the county together with a photo identification card” OR “a current valid student photo identification card from a post-secondary educational institutional institution in NM accompanied by a current student fee statement that contains the student’s address in the county”) a qualified elector must provide to establish the elector’s identity and residence prior to registering to vote or updating a registration immediately before voting (Laws of 2019, Chapter 67, page 3, line 17 through page 4, line 4);
- provides that a provisional ballot shall be provided to a person desiring to register or update a registration if the early voting site or polling place does not

have real-time access to the statewide electronic voter file (Laws of 2019, Chapter 67, page 4, lines 5-9); and

- provides that a voter registration by a person who is not a qualified elector is not valid (Laws of 2019, Chapter 67, page 6, line 25 through page 7, line 4).

Section 2 updates voter registration transactions at the Motor Vehicle Division of the NM Taxation and Revenue Department and at each benefit program administered by the NM Human Services Department.

2019 ELECTION CODE-RELATED LEGISLATION ENACTED

1. SB 190 – Sen. Daniel Ivey-Soto – Intimate Partner Violence Survivor Suffrage (Laws of 2019, Chapter 226).
2. SB 223 – Sen. Linda Lopez – Land Grant Elections & Definitions (Laws of 2019, Chapter 248).
3. SB 668 – Sen. Mimi Stewart – State Ethics Commission Act (Laws of 2019, Chapter 86).
4. SB 672 – Sen. Linda Lopez – Early & Auto Voter Registration (Laws of 2019, Chapter 67).
5. HB 55 – Rep. Gail Chasey – Agreement to Elect President by Popular Vote (Laws of 2019, Chapter 199).
6. HB 407 – Rep. Linda Trujillo – Election Laws 50-Year Tune-Up (Laws of 2019, Chapter 212).

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