

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 525

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS; PROVIDING A SHORT TITLE; AMENDING SECTION 34-404, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE ELECTORS AT DRIVER LICENSING OFFICES, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES SHALL FORWARD REGISTRATION CARDS TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Motor Voter Act."

SECTION 2. That Section 34-404, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

34-404. REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS. (1) All electors must register before being able to vote at any primary, general, special, school or any other election governed by the provisions of title 34, Idaho Code. Registration of a qualified person occurs when a legible, accurate and complete registration card is received in the office of the county clerk or is received at the polls pursuant to section 34-408A, Idaho Code, or when an electronic registration card is received by the county clerk from the Idaho transportation department through the division of motor vehicles as provided for in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The Idaho transportation department, through the division of motor vehicles and its driver licensing offices, shall register to vote each eligible elector who applies for the issuance, renewal or correction of any type of driver's license pursuant to chapter 3, title 49, Idaho Code, or for an identification card pursuant to sections 49-2442 and 49-2443, Idaho Code, by completing a registration card provided for in subsection (1) of this section for the eligible elector through the division of motor vehicles. Each driver licensing office shall forward completed registration cards to the office of the county clerk on a weekly basis and on the business day prior to closing of registration. Registration cards remitted during closure of registration shall be held pursuant to section 34-408, Idaho Code. The division of motor vehicles shall provide for an elector to opt out of registration provided for in this section.

(3) Each elector may select on the registration card an affiliation with a political party qualified to participate in elections pursuant to section 34-501, Idaho Code, or may select to be designated as "unaffiliated." The county clerk shall record the party affiliation or "unaffiliated" designation so selected as part of the elector's registration record. If an elector shall fail or refuse to make such a selection, the county clerk shall enter on the registration records that such elector is "unaffiliated."

1 (34) In order to provide an elector with the appropriate primary elec-
2 tion ballot, pursuant to section 34-904A, Idaho Code, the poll book for
3 primary elections shall include the party affiliation or designation as
4 "unaffiliated" for each elector so registered. An "unaffiliated" elector
5 shall declare to the poll worker which primary election ballot the elec-
6 tor chooses to vote in, pursuant to section 34-904A, Idaho Code, and the
7 poll worker or other authorized election personnel shall record such dec-
8 laration in the poll book. The poll book shall contain checkoff boxes to
9 allow the poll worker or other authorized election personnel to record such
10 "unaffiliated" elector's selection.

11 (45) In order to provide electors who are already registered to vote,
12 and who remain registered electors, with an opportunity to select a party af-
13 filiation or to select their status as "unaffiliated," the poll book for the
14 2012 primary election shall include checkoff boxes by which the poll worker
15 or other appropriate election personnel shall record such elector's choice
16 of party affiliation or choice to be designated as "unaffiliated." After the
17 2012 primary election, the county clerk shall record the party affiliation
18 or "unaffiliated" designation so selected in the poll book as part of such
19 an elector's record within the voter registration system as provided for in
20 section 34-437A, Idaho Code.

21 (56) After the 2012 primary election, electors who remain registered
22 voters and who did not vote in the 2012 primary election or who have not
23 selected party affiliation or who have not selected to be designated as
24 "unaffiliated," shall be designated as "unaffiliated", and the county clerk
25 shall record that designation for each such elector within the voter regis-
26 tration system as provided for in section 34-437A, Idaho Code.