



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

***Raised Bill No. 5775***

LCO No. 2855

\*02855 \_\_\_\_\_ GAE\*

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means (1)  
4 public assistance offices, (2) all offices in the state that provide  
5 state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to  
6 persons with disabilities, (3) libraries that are open to the public, and  
7 (4) such other appropriate offices as the Secretary of the State shall  
8 designate in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act of  
9 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.

10 (b) Voter registration agencies shall (1) distribute mail voter  
11 registration application forms, (2) assist applicants for such assistance  
12 or services in completing voter registration application forms, except  
13 for applicants who refuse such assistance, (3) accept completed voter  
14 registration application forms and provide each applicant with an

15 application receipt, on which the agency shall record the date that the  
16 agency received the application, using an official date stamp bearing  
17 the name of the agency, and (4) immediately transmit all such  
18 applications to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence  
19 of the applicants. The agency shall provide such receipt whether the  
20 application was submitted in person or by mail. If a registration  
21 application is accepted within five days before the last day for  
22 registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall be  
23 transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence  
24 of the applicant not later than five days after the date of acceptance.  
25 The voter registration agency shall indicate on the completed mail  
26 voter registration application form, without indicating the identity of  
27 the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency,  
28 to ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election  
29 if it is received by the registration agency by the last day for  
30 registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded program primarily  
31 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides  
32 services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency  
33 shall provide such voter registration services at the person's home. The  
34 procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g that are  
35 not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L.  
36 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications  
37 made under this section. Officials and employees of such voter  
38 registration agencies are not admitting officials, as defined in section  
39 9-17a, and may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a, as  
40 amended, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.

41 (d) In addition to the duties described in subsection (b) of this  
42 section, each such public assistance office and office in the state that  
43 provides state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing  
44 services to persons with disabilities shall train new employees of such  
45 office in any training instruction prescribed by the Secretary of the  
46 State for employees of voter registration agencies. Once every six  
47 months, such training shall be readministered for current employees of  
48 such office.

49 (e) Not later than January 1, 2007, each such public assistance office  
50 and office in the state that provides state-funded programs primarily  
51 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities shall  
52 designate a voter registration coordinator who shall be responsible for  
53 compiling and transmitting such voter registration information to the  
54 Secretary of the State, as required by section 9-23o, as amended by this  
55 act.

56 Sec. 2. Section 9-23o of the general statutes is repealed and the  
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

58 (a) A voter registration agency, as defined in section 9-23n shall  
59 comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31,  
60 as amended from time to time, and shall distribute with each  
61 application for service or assistance provided by the agency, and with  
62 each recertification, renewal or change of address form relating to such  
63 service or assistance a mail voter registration application form  
64 approved by the Secretary of the State unless the applicant declines to  
65 register to vote pursuant to the provisions of the National Voter  
66 Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time.  
67 Such declination shall be in writing, except in the case of an  
68 application for service or assistance provided by a library, or a  
69 recertification, renewal or change of address form relating to such  
70 library service or assistance. Such voter registration agency shall  
71 provide each applicant to register to vote the same degree of assistance  
72 with regard to the completion of the registration application form as is  
73 provided by the agency with regard to the completion of its own  
74 forms, unless the applicant refuses such assistance.

75 (b) In addition to the duties described in subsection (a) of this  
76 section, not later than October 1, 2007, each public assistance office and  
77 office in the state that provides state-funded programs primarily  
78 engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities shall  
79 develop a system to distribute a mail voter registration application  
80 form approved by the Secretary of the State to any person who, by

81 means of mail, telephone or Internet communication, files a change of  
82 address with such office, unless the applicant declines to register to  
83 vote pursuant to the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act  
84 of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time.

85 (c) Each such public assistance office and office in the state that  
86 provides state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing  
87 services to persons with disabilities shall have its voter registration  
88 coordinator, as described in section 9-23n, as amended by this act, keep  
89 a record of the number of clients who: (1) Complete a voter registration  
90 application in such office, (2) take home such a voter registration  
91 application from such office, (3) decline to register to vote, (4) are  
92 already registered to vote, (5) interact by means of mail, telephone or  
93 Internet communication with such office, and (6) decline to register to  
94 vote because they are not citizens of the United States. Additionally,  
95 each such office shall keep a record of the total traffic flow of persons  
96 in such office. Any information required to be kept pursuant to the  
97 provisions of this subsection shall be transmitted by such office to the  
98 Secretary of the State at such times and in such manner as prescribed  
99 by the Secretary of the State.

100 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) Notwithstanding any  
101 provision of the general statutes, the Secretary of the State may  
102 develop a plan to institute a system for the simultaneous electronic  
103 registration for any public assistance program administered by the  
104 state and for voter registration.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	9-23n
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	9-23o
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To enhance certain provisions of the National Voter Registration Act.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*