

Restoring Voting Rights to Citizens with Past Felony Convictions



MODEL STATUTORY LANGUAGE

An Act to Restore Voting Rights to Citizens with Past Felony Convictions

Section 1: SHORT TITLE

This Act shall be called the “Voting Rights Restoration Act.”

Section 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Act is to ensure the restoration of the voting rights to all citizens convicted of a felony upon the completion of their sentence by providing more efficient processes for restoration and voter registration.

Section 3: RESTORATION OF FELONS' VOTING RIGHTS

(a) The right to vote or ability to register to vote of any person, who is otherwise qualified to vote, shall not be restricted on the basis of a felony conviction for any period longer than the duration of such person's incarceration, which is not to include any period of parole, probation or supervised release.

(b) Upon the release from incarceration of any person contemplated within subsection (a) of this section, the Department of Corrections shall:

- (1) explicitly inform such person of such person's eligibility to register to vote and right to vote in any subsequent election;
- (2) provide such person with documentation certifying such person's release or discharge and eligibility to vote; and
- (3) explicitly offer such person the opportunity to register to vote and facilitate registration, if such person elects to register.

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(c) On or by the 15th calendar day of each month, the Department of Corrections shall submit to the secretary of state a list of the names, addresses, and any identifying information, if known, of each person over eighteen who has been released from incarceration during the preceding calendar month. The Department of Corrections shall also submit the registration materials of all persons who registered to vote in accordance with subsection (b)(3) of this section during the preceding calendar month. In accordance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the secretary of state shall promptly add the names and registration information of any person registered under subsection (b)(3) of this section to the state's computerized statewide voter registration list.

(d) Upon receipt of the list referenced in subsection (c) of this section, but in no event later than the 15th day of the next calendar month, the secretary of state shall transmit to the relevant election authority the names, addresses and identifying information of each person who was either previously registered to vote or is likely eligible to vote within such election authority's jurisdiction, and indicate that such person's voting rights have been restored. Within 30 calendar days, the election authority shall inform each such person within its jurisdiction of the restoration of such person's right to vote and eligibility to register to vote.

Section 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall go into effect the _____ day of _____ 20____.