ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 499–ASSEMBLYMEMBER YEAGER

MARCH 24, 2025

Referred to Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-998)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§§ 2-5, 8, 9)
(NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets **[**~~omitted material~~**]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to elections; requiring each county clerk to establish and maintain a voter services portal on the Internet website of the office of the county clerk; requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles to submit electronically to each county clerk certain information relating to each person who has a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department; requiring the county clerk to include certain information received from the Department in the centralized, top-down database that is established by the Secretary of State for purposes of creating the statewide voter registration list; requiring certain information to be included on the return envelope for a mail ballot; revising provisions relating to signature curing for mail ballots; providing that certain information on the statewide voter registration list relating to a voter is confidential and not a public record; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 2 of this bill requires each county clerk to establish and maintain a voter services portal on the Internet website of the office of the county clerk, which must allow any registered voter in the county to: (1) review his or her voter registration information; (2) print any form necessary to update his or her voter registration information; (3) view his or her sample ballot; and (4) obtain the location of any polling place where the registered voter may vote or deliver a mail

ballot to a ballot drop box. **Section 2** further authorizes a county clerk to request the assistance of the Secretary of State to establish and maintain the voter services portal.

Existing law requires, with certain exceptions, the county or city clerk to send to each active registered voter certain information relating to voting by mail, including a mail ballot and a return envelope. (NRS 293.269913, 293C.26312) **Sections 4 and 8** of this bill require the return envelope for a mail ballot to include: (1) a space for the voter to voluntarily write certain identifying information; and (2) a QR code or other machine-readable code that directs a voter to the voter services portal on the Internet website of the office of the county clerk.

Existing law requires: (1) the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a centralized, top-down database that collects and stores information relating to the preregistration of persons and the registration of electors from all the counties in this State; and (2) each county clerk to use the database to collect and maintain all records of preregistration and registration to vote. Under existing law, the Secretary of State is required to: (1) use the voter registration information collected in the database to create the official statewide voter registration list, which serves as the single method for storing and managing the official list of registered voters in this State; and (2) enter into a cooperative agreement with the Department of Motor Vehicles to match information in the database of the statewide voter registration list with information in the appropriate database of the Department to verify the accuracy of the information in an application to register to vote. (NRS 293.675)

Section 3 of this bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles, on a regular basis, to submit electronically to each county clerk certain information relating to each person who has a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department. **Section 3** further requires the county clerk to: (1) match such information to registered voters in the county; (2) electronically enter into the centralized, top-down database such information for each registered voter in the county as soon as practicable after matching the information to registered voters in the county; (3) identify any person who is a registered voter in the county and does not have a driver's license or identification card; and (4) indicate in the database whether each registered voter in the county has a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department. **Section 7** of this bill requires the information submitted to the county clerk by the Department to be included on the statewide voter registration list.

Existing law provides that certain information relating to a registered voter is confidential and not a public record. (NRS 293.558) **Section 6** of this bill provides that the information submitted to the county clerk by the Department pursuant to **section 3** is also confidential and not a public record.

Existing law requires a voter who votes by mail to affix his or her signature in the space provided on the return envelope of a mail ballot and the county clerk or city clerk to check the signature to verify the identity of the voter. (NRS 293.269917, 293.269927, 293C.26316, 293C.26327) Existing law provides that if the county clerk or city clerk determines when checking the signature used for the mail ballot that the voter failed to affix his or her signature or failed to affix it in the manner required by law or that there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, the clerk is required to contact the voter and advise the voter of the procedures to provide a signature or a confirmation, as applicable. For the mail ballot to be counted, the voter must provide a signature or a confirmation, as applicable, not later than 5 p.m. on the sixth day following the election. (NRS 293.269927, 293C.26327) **Sections 5 and 9** of this bill make various changes to the signature curing process. First, **sections 5 and 9** provide that if the voter included on the return envelope the last four digits of the voter's driver's license, the last four digits of the voter's social security number or the voter's voter identification number and such information is

confirmed by the clerk to be accurate, the voter is entitled to cast the ballot and the signature is not required to be verified. If the voter did not include such information on the return envelope or the information provided on the return envelope is not accurate, the clerk or an employee in the office of the clerk is required to check the signature. Second, **sections 5 and 9** require that: (1) the county clerk and city clerk ensure that employees are available by telephone on evenings and weekends during the signature curing period; and (2) any voicemail message or hold message used by the office of the clerk provides instructions on how a voter may provide a signature or a signature confirmation. Finally, **sections 5 and 9** authorize a voter to confirm his or her signature on the return envelope by electronic mail or text message.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 293 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

Sec. 2. ***1. Each county clerk shall establish and maintain a voter services portal on the Internet website of the office of the county clerk.***

2. The voter services portal must, without limitation, allow any registered voter in the county to:

(a) Review his or her voter registration information, including, without limitation, his or her voter identification number;

(b) Print any form necessary to update his or her voter registration information;

(c) View his or her sample ballot; and

(d) Obtain the location of any polling place where the registered voter may vote or deliver a mail ballot into a ballot drop box.

3. A county clerk may request the assistance of the Secretary of State to establish and maintain the voter services portal required pursuant to this section.

Sec. 3. ***1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall, on a regular basis, submit electronically to each county clerk the following information relating to each person who has a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department:***

(a) Name;

(b) Date of birth;

(c) Social security number;

(d) Driver's license number or identification card number, as applicable;

(e) Birthplace;

(f) Sex;

(g) Height and weight;

(h) Photograph from the person's driver's license or identification card;

(i) Physical address;

(j) Mailing address;

(k) Citizenship status;

(l) Telephone number;

(m) Electronic mail address; and

(n) Veteran status.

2. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall not submit any information to a county clerk pursuant to subsection 1 relating to any person who has a driver authorization card issued by the Department pursuant to NRS 483.291.

3. The county clerk shall:

(a) Match the information received from the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to subsection 1 to registered voters in the county in the centralized, top-down database established pursuant to NRS 293.675;

(b) Electronically enter the information received from the Department pursuant to subsection 1 into the centralized, top-down database established pursuant to NRS 293.675 for each registered voter in the county as soon as practicable after matching the information to registered voters in the county;

(c) Identify, based on the information received pursuant to subsection 1, any person who:

(1) Is a registered voter in the county; and

(2) Does not have a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department; and

(d) Indicate in the centralized, top-down database established pursuant to NRS 293.675 whether the registered voter has a driver's license or identification card issued by the Department.

Sec. 4. NRS 293.269913 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.269913 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, NRS 293.269911 and chapter 293D of NRS, the county clerk shall send to each active registered voter by first-class mail, or by any class of mail if the Official Election Mail logo or an equivalent logo or mark created by the United States Postal Service is properly placed:

(a) A mail ballot;

(b) A return envelope ~~[;]~~ ***, which must include, without limitation:***

(1) A space for the voter to voluntarily write:

(I) The last four digits of the voter's driver's license;

(II) The last four digits of the voter's social security number; or

(III) The voter identification number of the voter; and

(2) A two-dimensional barcode, commonly known as a QR code, or another machine-readable code used for storing the Internet address for the voter services portal created by the county clerk pursuant to section 2 of this act;

(c) An envelope or sleeve into which the mail ballot is inserted to ensure its secrecy; and

(d) Instructions ~~[.]~~ ***that include, without limitation:***

(1) An explanation that the voter may voluntarily write on the return envelope the information described in paragraph (b); and

(2) A two-dimensional barcode, commonly known as a QR code, or another machine-readable code used for storing the Internet address for the voter services portal on the Internet website of the county clerk.

2. In sending a mail ballot to an active registered voter, the county clerk shall use an envelope that may not be forwarded to an address of the voter that is different from the address to which the mail ballot is mailed.

3. The return envelope must include postage prepaid by first-class mail if the active registered voter is within the boundaries of the United States, its territories or possessions or on a military base.

4. Before sending a mail ballot to an active registered voter, the county clerk shall record:

(a) The date the mail ballot is issued;

(b) The name of the voter to whom the mail ballot is issued, his or her precinct or district and his or her political affiliation, if any, unless all the offices on the mail ballot are nonpartisan offices;

(c) The number of the mail ballot; and

(d) Any remarks the county clerk finds appropriate.

5. The Secretary of State shall prescribe:

(a) The form of all envelopes in which mail ballots are sent to voters and return envelopes, which must, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), be uniform throughout the State; and

(b) A method for distinguishing the return envelopes of each county which must be prominently displayed on the outside of the return envelope.

Sec. 5. NRS 293.269927 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.269927 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293D.200, when a mail ballot is returned by or on behalf of a voter to the county clerk, and a record of its return is made in the mail ballot record for the election, the clerk or an employee in the office of the clerk shall check the ***return envelope to determine whether the voter included on the return envelope the last four digits of the***

voter's driver's license, the last four digits of the voter's social security number or the voter's voter identification number. If the return envelope includes any such information and such information is confirmed by the clerk to be accurate, the voter is entitled to cast the mail ballot and the signature is not required to be checked. If the voter did not include such information on the return envelope or the information provided on the return envelope is not accurate, the clerk or an employee in the office of the clerk must check the signature used for the mail ballot by electronic means pursuant to subsection 2 or manually pursuant to subsection 3.

2. To check the signature used for a mail ballot by electronic means:

(a) The electronic device must take a digital image of the signature used for the mail ballot and compare the digital image with the signatures of the voter from his or her application to register to vote or application to preregister to vote available in the records of the county clerk.

(b) If the electronic device does not match the signature of the voter, the signature shall be reviewed manually pursuant to the provisions of subsection 3.

3. To check the signature used for a mail ballot manually, the county clerk shall use the following procedure:

(a) The clerk or employee shall check the signature used for the mail ballot against all signatures of the voter available in the records of the clerk.

(b) If at least two employees in the office of the clerk believe there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, the clerk shall contact the voter and ask the voter to confirm whether the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter.

4. For purposes of subsection 3:

(a) There is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter if the signature used for the mail ballot differs in multiple, significant and obvious respects from the signatures of the voter available in the records of the clerk.

(b) There is not a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter if:

(1) The signature used for the mail ballot is a variation of the signature of the voter caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, the substitution of a different type of punctuation in the first, middle or last name, the use of a common nickname or the use of one last name for a person who has two last

names and it does not otherwise differ in multiple, significant and obvious respects from the signatures of the voter available in the records of the clerk; or

(2) There are only slight dissimilarities between the signature used for the mail ballot and the signatures of the voter available in the records of the clerk.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, if the clerk determines that the voter is entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk shall deposit the mail ballot in the proper ballot box or place the mail ballot, unopened, in a container that must be securely locked or under the control of the clerk at all times. The clerk shall deliver the mail ballots to the mail ballot central counting board to be processed and prepared for counting.

6. If the clerk determines when checking the signature used for the mail ballot that the voter failed to affix his or her signature or failed to affix it in the manner required by law for the mail ballot or that there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, but the voter is otherwise entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk shall contact the voter and advise the voter of the procedures to provide a signature or a confirmation that the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as applicable. For the mail ballot to be counted, the voter must provide a signature or a confirmation, as applicable, not later than 5 p.m. on the sixth day following the election. ***During the period in which signatures may be cured, the clerk shall ensure that employees in the office of the clerk are available by telephone on evenings and weekends. Any voicemail message or hold message used by the office of the clerk must provide instructions on how a voter may provide a signature or a confirmation.***

7. The clerk shall prescribe procedures for a voter who failed to affix his or her signature or failed to affix it in the manner required by law for the mail ballot, or for whom there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, in order to:

(a) Contact the voter;

(b) Allow the voter to provide a signature or a confirmation that the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as applicable; and

(c) After a signature or a confirmation is provided, as applicable, ensure the mail ballot is delivered to the mail ballot central counting board.

8. If there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, the voter must be identified by:

(a) Answering questions from the county clerk covering the personal data which is reported on the application to register to vote;

(b) Providing the county clerk, orally or in writing, ***including, without limitation, in writing by electronic mail or text message,*** with other personal data which verifies the identity of the voter; or

(c) Providing the county clerk with proof of identification as described in NRS 293.277 other than the voter registration card issued to the voter.

9. The procedures established pursuant to subsection 7 for contacting a voter must require the clerk to contact the voter, as soon as possible after receipt of the mail ballot, by:

(a) Mail;

(b) Telephone, if a telephone number for the voter is available in the records of the clerk; and

(c) Electronic means, which ~~[may]~~ ***must*** include, without limitation ~~[, electronic]~~ ***:***

(1) Electronic mail, if the voter has provided the clerk with ~~[sufficient information to contact the voter by such means.]~~ ***an electronic mail address; or***

(2) Text message, if the voter has provided the clerk with a cellular telephone number.

Sec. 6. NRS 293.558 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.558 1. The county or city clerk shall disclose the identification number of a registered voter to the public, including, without limitation:

(a) In response to an inquiry received by the county or city clerk; or

(b) By inclusion of the identification number of the registered voter on any list of registered voters made available for public inspection pursuant to NRS 293.301, 293.440, 293.557, 293C.290 or 293C.542.

2. The county or city clerk shall not disclose:

(a) The social security number or the driver's license or identification card number of a registered voter, and such a number is confidential and is not a public book or record within the meaning of NRS 239.010.

(b) An electronic mail address provided by a registered voter to carry out any state or federal law relating to the voting process, and such an electronic mail address is confidential and is not a public book or record within the meaning of NRS 239.010. The county or city clerk may not release a registered voter's electronic mail address to a third party and may use such an electronic mail address only to:

(1) Communicate with the registered voter about the voting process, including, without limitation, as necessary to carry out the provisions of chapter 293D of NRS; and

(2) Distribute a sample ballot to the registered voter by electronic means if the county or city clerk has established a system for distributing sample ballots by electronic means pursuant to NRS 293.565 or 293C.530 and the registered voter elects to receive a sample ballot by electronic means.

(c) The information of a registered voter that is received from the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 3 of this act is confidential and is not a public book or record.

3. A registered voter may submit a written request to the county or city clerk to have his or her address and telephone number withheld from the public. Upon receipt of such a request, the county or city clerk shall not disclose the address or telephone number of the registered voter to the public, including, without limitation:

(a) In response to an inquiry received by the county or city clerk; or

(b) By inclusion on any list of registered voters made available for public inspection pursuant to NRS 293.301, 293.440, 293.557, 293C.290 or 293C.542.

4. No information relating to a registered voter may be withheld from the public other than:

(a) The address and telephone number of the registered voter if requested by the registered voter pursuant to this section;

(b) An electronic mail address provided by the registered voter to carry out any state or federal law relating to the voting process;

(c) The social security number and driver's license or identification card number of the registered voter; ~~[and]~~

(d) ***The birthplace, sex, height, weight, photograph, citizenship status and veteran status of the registered voter; and***

(e) Any other information relating to the registered voter that any state or federal law declares to be confidential or otherwise requires to be withheld from the public.

Sec. 7. NRS 293.675 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293.675 1. The Secretary of State shall establish and maintain a centralized, top-down database that collects and stores information related to the preregistration of persons and the registration of electors from all the counties in this State. The Secretary of State shall ensure that the database is capable of storing preregistration information separately until a person is qualified to register to vote. Each county clerk shall use the database created by the Secretary of State pursuant to this subsection to collect and maintain all records of preregistration and registration to vote.

2. The Secretary of State shall use the voter registration information collected in the database created pursuant to subsection 1 to create the official statewide voter registration list, which may be maintained on the Internet, in consultation with each county and city clerk.

3. The statewide voter registration list must:

(a) Be a uniform, centralized and interactive computerized list;

(b) Serve as the single method for storing and managing the official list of registered voters in this State;

(c) Serve as the official list of registered voters for the conduct of all elections in this State;

(d) Contain the name ~~[and]~~ ***, voter*** registration information ***and, if applicable, the information described in section 3 of this act*** of every legally registered voter in this State;

(e) Include a unique identifier assigned by the Secretary of State to each legally registered voter in this State;

(f) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 9, be coordinated with the appropriate databases of other agencies in this State;

(g) Be electronically accessible to each state and local election official in this State at all times;

(h) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 10, allow for data to be shared with other states under certain circumstances; and

(i) Be regularly maintained to ensure the integrity of the registration process and the election process.

4. Each county and city clerk shall:

(a) Electronically enter into the database created pursuant to subsection 1 all information related to voter preregistration and registration obtained by the county or city clerk at the time the information is provided to the county or city clerk; and

(b) Provide the Secretary of State with information concerning the voter registration of the county or city and other reasonable information requested by the Secretary of State in the form required by the Secretary of State to establish or maintain the statewide voter registration list.

5. In establishing and maintaining the statewide voter registration list, the Secretary of State shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the Department of Motor Vehicles to match information in the database of the statewide voter registration list with information in the appropriate database of the Department of Motor Vehicles to verify the accuracy of the information in an application to register to vote.

6. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with the Social Security Administration pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 21083, to verify the accuracy of information in an application to register to vote.

7. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall ensure that its database:

(a) Is capable of processing any information related to an application to register to vote, an application to update voter registration information or a request to verify the accuracy of voter registration information as quickly as is feasible; and

(b) Does not limit the number of applications to register to vote, applications to update voter registration information or requests to verify the accuracy of voter registration information that may be processed by the database in any given day.

8. The Secretary of State shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the State Registrar of Vital Statistics to match information in the database of the statewide voter registration list with information in the records of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics concerning the death of a resident of this State to maintain the statewide voter registration list. The Secretary of State must compare the records of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics to those in the statewide voter registration list at least once per month.

9. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 481.063 or any provision of law providing for the confidentiality of information, the Secretary of State may enter into an agreement with an agency of this State pursuant to which the agency provides to the Secretary of State any information in the possession of the agency that the Secretary of State deems necessary to maintain the statewide voter registration list.

10. The Secretary of State may:

(a) Request from the chief officer of elections of another state any information which the Secretary of State deems necessary to maintain the statewide voter registration list; and

(b) Provide to the chief officer of elections of another state any information which is requested and which the Secretary of State deems necessary for the chief officer of elections of that state to maintain a voter registration list, if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the information provided pursuant to this paragraph will be used only for the maintenance of that voter registration list.

Sec. 8. NRS 293C.26312 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293C.26312 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, NRS 293C.263 and chapter 293D of NRS, the city clerk shall send to each active registered voter by first-class mail, or by any class of mail if the Official Election Mail logo or an equivalent logo or mark created by the United States Postal Service is properly placed:

(a) A mail ballot;

(b) A return envelope ~~[:]~~ ***, which must include, without limitation:***

(1) A space for the voter to voluntarily write:

(I) The last four digits of the voter's driver's license;

(II) The last four digits of the voter's social security number; or

(III) The voter identification number of the voter; and

(2) A two-dimensional barcode, commonly known as a QR code, or another machine-readable code used for storing the Internet address for the voter services portal created by the county clerk pursuant to section 2 of this act;

(c) An envelope or sleeve into which the mail ballot is inserted to ensure its secrecy; and

(d) Instructions ~~[.]~~ ***that include, without limitation:***

(1) An explanation that the voter may voluntarily write on the return envelope the information described in paragraph (b); and

(2) A two-dimensional barcode, commonly known as a QR code, or another machine-readable code used for storing the Internet address for the voter services portal on the Internet website of the county clerk.

2. In sending a mail ballot to an active registered voter, the city clerk shall use an envelope that may not be forwarded to an address of the voter that is different from the address to which the mail ballot is mailed.

3. The return envelope must include postage prepaid by first-class mail if the active registered voter is within the boundaries of the United States, its territories or possessions or on a military base.

4. Before sending a mail ballot to an active registered voter, the city clerk shall record:

(a) The date the mail ballot is issued;

(b) The name of the voter to whom the mail ballot is issued, his or her precinct or district and his or her political affiliation, if any, unless all the offices on the mail ballot are nonpartisan offices;

(c) The number of the mail ballot; and

(d) Any remarks the city clerk finds appropriate.

5. The Secretary of State shall prescribe:

(a) The form of all envelopes in which mail ballots are sent to voters and return envelopes, which must, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), be uniform throughout the State; and

(b) A method for distinguishing the return envelopes of each city which must be prominently displayed on the outside of the return envelope.

Sec. 9. NRS 293C.26327 is hereby amended to read as follows:

293C.26327 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 293D.200, when a mail ballot is returned by or on behalf of a voter

to the city clerk, and a record of its return is made in the mail ballot record for the election, the clerk or an employee in the office of the clerk shall check the ***return envelope to determine whether the voter included on the return envelope the last four digits of the voter's driver's license, the last four digits of the voter's social security number or the voter's voter identification number. If the return envelope includes any such information and such information is confirmed by the clerk to be accurate, the voter is entitled to cast the mail ballot and the signature is not required to be checked. If the voter did not include such information on the return envelope or the information provided on the return envelope is not accurate, the clerk or an employee in the office of the clerk must check the*** signature used for the mail ballot by electronic means pursuant to subsection 2 or manually pursuant to subsection 3.

2. To check the signature used for a mail ballot by electronic means:

(a) The electronic device must take a digital image of the signature used for the mail ballot and electronically compare the digital image with the signatures of the voter from his or her application to register to vote or application to preregister to vote available in the records of the city clerk.

(b) If the electronic device does not match the signature of the voter, the signature shall be reviewed manually pursuant to the provisions of subsection 3.

3. To check the signature used for a mail ballot manually, the city clerk shall use the following procedure:

(a) The clerk or employee shall check the signature used for the mail ballot against all signatures of the voter available in the records of the clerk.

(b) If at least two employees in the office of the clerk believe there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, the clerk shall contact the voter and ask the voter to confirm whether the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter.

4. For purposes of subsection 3:

(a) There is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter if the signature used for the mail ballot differs in multiple, significant and obvious respects from the signatures of the voter available in the records of the clerk.

(b) There is not a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter if:

(1) The signature used for the mail ballot is a variation of the signature of the voter caused by the substitution of initials for the first or middle name, the substitution of a different type of punctuation in the first, middle or last name, the use of a common nickname or the use of one last name for a person who has two last names and it does not otherwise differ in multiple, significant and obvious respects from the signatures of the voter available in the records of the clerk; or

(2) There are only slight dissimilarities between the signature used for the mail ballot and the signatures of the voter available in the records of the clerk.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, if the clerk determines that the voter is entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk shall deposit the mail ballot in the proper ballot box or place the mail ballot, unopened, in a container that must be securely locked or under the control of the clerk at all times. The clerk shall deliver the mail ballots to the mail ballot central counting board to be processed and prepared for counting.

6. If the clerk determines when checking the signature used for the mail ballot that the voter failed to affix his or her signature or failed to affix it in the manner required by law for the mail ballot or that there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, but the voter is otherwise entitled to cast the mail ballot, the clerk shall contact the voter and advise the voter of the procedures to provide a signature or a confirmation that the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as applicable. For the mail ballot to be counted, the voter must provide a signature or a confirmation, as applicable, not later than 5 p.m. on the sixth day following the election. ***During the period in which signatures may be cured, the clerk shall ensure that employees in the office of the clerk are available by telephone on evenings and weekends. Any voicemail message or hold message used by the office of the clerk must provide instructions on how a voter may provide a signature or a confirmation.***

7. The clerk shall prescribe procedures for a voter who failed to affix his or her signature or failed to affix it in the manner required by law for the mail ballot, or for whom there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, in order to:

(a) Contact the voter;

(b) Allow the voter to provide a signature or a confirmation that the signature used for the mail ballot belongs to the voter, as applicable; and

(c) After a signature or a confirmation is provided, as applicable, ensure the mail ballot is delivered to the mail ballot central counting board.

8. If there is a reasonable question of fact as to whether the signature used for the mail ballot matches the signature of the voter, the voter must be identified by:

(a) Answering questions from the city clerk covering the personal data which is reported on the application to register to vote;

(b) Providing the city clerk, orally or in writing, ***including, without limitation, in writing by electronic mail or text message,*** with other personal data which verifies the identity of the voter; or

(c) Providing the city clerk with proof of identification as described in NRS 293C.270 other than the voter registration card issued to the voter.

9. The procedures established pursuant to subsection 7 for contacting a voter must require the clerk to contact the voter, as soon as possible after receipt of the mail ballot, by:

(a) Mail;

(b) Telephone, if a telephone number for the voter is available in the records of the clerk; and

(c) Electronic means, which ~~[may]~~ ***must*** include, without limitation ~~[, electronic]~~ ***:***

(1) Electronic mail, if the voter has provided the clerk with ~~[sufficient information to contact the voter by such means.]~~ ***an electronic mail address; and***

(2) Text message, if the voter has provided the clerk with a cellular telephone number.

Sec. 10. The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 11. 1. This section and section 10 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 1 to 9, inclusive, of this act become effective:

(a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

(b) On October 1, 2025, for all other purposes.