

MOTOR VOTER ACT

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

National Voter Registration Act of 1993

II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

The purpose of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, also called the Motor Voter Act, is to ensure that more opportunities are available for all people to register to vote or update voter registration. The Act requires that applications to register to vote be provided at agencies that provide benefits under the Family Independence Program (FIP), Medical Assistance, and Food Stamp Program as well as agencies providing services to persons with disabilities. The Office of Rehabilitation Services will distribute voter registration forms, provide assistance in completing forms, and ensure that the completed forms reach the proper state election office for processing. These services are to be provided by every office where such programs are administered.

Individuals to be registered are applicants/recipients meeting all of the following criteria at application for benefits, at recertification, or if reporting a change of address. The individual must:

- * Be 18 years old or over; AND
- * Be present in the office at the time of the interview or when a change of address is reported; AND
- * Not be registered to vote or not registered to vote at her/his current address.

Workers must provide the same level of assistance to individuals applying to register to vote as are provided for other applications for assistance. This includes, but is not limited to, assistance in completing the application to register to vote, unless the applicant/recipient refuses such assistance.

Workers are prohibited from trying to influence an applicant/recipient's political preference or party registration; displaying political preference/party allegiance; and making any statement or take any action that may leave the impression that a decision to register or not to register to vote will have any bearing on the availability of program services or benefits. The penalties for failure to comply with these prohibitions could result in a fine, imprisonment (not to exceed 5 years), or both.

Completion of the Voter Registration form is only an application to register to vote. The State Board of Elections makes the determination of approval or denial of the application and sends its own confirmation or denial notice to the applicant.