

in each county will appoint three citizens as registrars from a list of six names submitted by the grand jury.

State board: The act creates an entirely new agency, the State Registration and Election Information Board. The members are the Governor, the attorney general and the secretary of state.

It's supposed to prepare and distribute material to registrars to "enable them to more efficiently perform their duties" and to conduct "seminars and meetings at such times and places deemed advisable."

The board is authorized to employ an executive director and other personnel to do whatever the board assigns for them to do.

Requalifying: If for any reason a voter's name is cut off the list, he must start from scratch and register under the new procedure.

Under the old law a voter dropped from the list could be placed back on by requesting reinstatement, without the necessity for going through the whole rigmarole.

Purge: The new act provides for the first purge of the voter list for nonvoting to take place in 1959. But there's a conflict in the section of the act providing this, so the 1959 legislature will have to straighten it out.

The original bill provided for persons who hadn't voted within 2 years to be dropped from the list. A house amendment changed that to 5 years, but neglected to make the rest of the section conform. So the 1959 legislature will have to determine whether it will be 5 years or 2 years.

Mr. BLOCH. Mr. Chairman, may I comment on that?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. BLOCH. That 1958 act about which the Atlanta Constitution was apparently writing and quoting various people is the act to which I referred in my written statement.

Now if that act is derelict in the manners pointed out in that newspaper article, I wonder why in the year and a half or 2 years since that act was passed that nobody in Georgia has filed a suit to test its legality or validity or constitutionality.

The comments that were made on the floor of the House or in the newspapers don't prove anything.

If the act did do what the proponents of it or those arguments for it said in the newspaper, if it is illegal, why hasn't somebody tested its legality?

I am sure if the chairman or the members of the committee will read the act as it appears in the Georgia Code you will find it is a perfectly valid constitutional act and if it should be applied unconstitutionally, if it should be applied so as to discriminate between races, then those races have their remedy. The act appears in the Georgia Code Annotated (pocket part) as sections 34-101 to 34-145, inclusive.

Mr. MEADER. Mr. Bloch, I don't want you to close your testimony in this record without commenting on what I think is a very important problem which has not so far been discussed either in your prepared statement or in the colloquy.

It is one that has disturbed me from the beginning when this legislation was first called to my attention and that is the remedy or the device that is employed in this legislation.

Let me state it to you this way. The function of determining the qualifications of electors and the whole election process under our Constitution is vested in the States and their local subdivisions and there is only a limitation upon that function by the 15th amendment which is a negative thing.

It says you may determine the qualifications of electors and conduct the voting process, but you shall not abridge the right of a Negro to vote.