

By Senator Taddeo

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to voter registration; amending s.  
3       97.057, F.S.; revising procedures governing voter  
4       registration administered by the Department of Highway  
5       Safety and Motor Vehicles; providing that driver  
6       license or identification card applications, driver  
7       license or identification card renewal applications,  
8       and changes of address for existing driver licenses or  
9       identification cards submitted to the department serve  
10      as voter registration applications; specifying that an  
11      applicant must consent to the use of his or her  
12      signature for voter registration purposes; requiring  
13      the department to include a voter registration  
14      component on specified applications; requiring the  
15      Department of State to approve the voter registration  
16      component; specifying required content for the voter  
17      registration component; providing for paper-based  
18      applications; requiring the supervisor of elections to  
19      provide a notification of registration to each  
20      applicant; providing that an applicant is registered,  
21      or has his or her voter registration record updated,  
22      if he or she fails to respond to the notification  
23      within a specified timeframe; requiring the supervisor  
24      to forward declinations to the statewide voter  
25      registration system; amending s. 98.045, F.S.;  
26      conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective  
27      date.

28  
29       WHEREAS, voter registration is one of the biggest barriers

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30 to full participation in our democracy, and

31 WHEREAS, Congress enacted the National Voter Registration  
32 Act of 1993, commonly known as the "Motor Voter Act," with  
33 findings recognizing that the right of citizens to vote is a  
34 fundamental right and that federal, state, and local governments  
35 have the duty to promote the exercise of this right, and

36 WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to provide residents of  
37 this state with enhanced access to participate in democracy  
38 through the exercise of their fundamental right to vote by  
39 streamlining and modernizing voter registration procedures used  
40 by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, NOW,  
41 THEREFORE,

42  
43 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

44  
45 Section 1. Present subsections (6) through (12) of section  
46 97.057, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)  
47 through (14), respectively, subsections (1) through (5) of that  
48 section are amended, and new subsections (6) and (7) are added  
49 to that section, to read:

50 97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway  
51 Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

52 (Substantial rewording of subsections. See  
53 s. 97.057(1)-(5), F.S., for present text.)

54 (1) Each of the following serves as an application to  
55 register to vote or to update a voter registration record when  
56 submitted to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
57 Vehicles:

58 (a) An application for a driver license, including a

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59 renewal application or a change of address for an existing  
60 driver license.

61 (b) An application for an identification card issued  
62 pursuant to chapter 322, including a renewal application or a  
63 change of address for an existing identification card.

64  
65 For voter registration purposes, an applicant must consent to  
66 the use of the signature from his or her driver license or  
67 identification card application unless the applicant declines to  
68 register to vote or declines to update his or her voter  
69 registration record.

70 (2) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
71 shall include a voter registration component on the application  
72 for a driver license or an identification card. The voter  
73 registration component of a driver license or an identification  
74 card application shall be approved by the Department of State  
75 and must contain:

76 (a) The minimum amount of information necessary to prevent  
77 duplicate voter registrations and preserve the ability of the  
78 department and supervisors of elections to assess the  
79 eligibility of the applicant and to administer voter  
80 registration and other provisions of the Florida Election Code.

81 (b) A statement setting forth voting eligibility  
82 requirements.

83 (c) A statement explaining that the applicant consents, for  
84 voter registration purposes, to the use of his or her signature  
85 from the applicant's driver license or identification card  
86 application. By consenting to the use of his or her signature,  
87 the applicant is deemed to have subscribed to the oath required

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88 by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051 and to  
89 have sworn and affirmed that the voter registration information  
90 contained in the application is true under penalty for false  
91 swearing pursuant to s. 104.011.

92 (d) An option that allows the applicant to decline to  
93 register to vote or to decline to update his or her voter  
94 registration record. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
95 Vehicles shall note any such declination in its records and  
96 forward the declination to the statewide voter registration  
97 system.

98 (3) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
99 shall develop a voter registration component for paper-based  
100 renewal applications which meets the requirements in subsection  
101 (2) and is approved by the Department of State.

102 (4) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
103 shall electronically transmit the voter registration component  
104 of an applicant's driver license or identification card  
105 application to the statewide voter registration system within 24  
106 hours after receipt. Upon receipt of the voter registration  
107 component, the Department of State shall provide the information  
108 to the supervisor of the county in which the applicant has been  
109 registered as an elector. For completed paper-based  
110 applications, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
111 Vehicles shall forward the voter registration component to the  
112 supervisor of the county where the office that processes or  
113 receives that application is located within 5 days after  
114 receipt.

115 (5) Following receipt of the voter registration component,  
116 the supervisor shall notify each applicant of the process to:

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117 (a) Decline being registered as an elector or decline to  
118 update his or her voter registration record.

119 (b) Designate a party affiliation if the applicant is not  
120 currently registered to vote in this state.

121 (6) If an applicant who is notified under subsection (5)  
122 does not decline to be registered as an elector or does not  
123 decline to update his or her voter registration record within 21  
124 calendar days after the supervisor issues the notification, the  
125 applicant's voter registration component of his or her  
126 application constitutes a completed voter registration  
127 application for purposes of this chapter. The applicant shall be  
128 registered to vote if the supervisor determines that the  
129 applicant is eligible to vote under s. 97.041 and the applicant  
130 is not already registered to vote. An applicant who does not  
131 respond to the notification to designate a party affiliation  
132 shall be registered without party affiliation as provided under  
133 s. 97.053(5) (b).

134 (7) If an applicant declines to register to vote or  
135 declines to update his or her voter registration record after  
136 receiving a notification issued pursuant to subsection (5), the  
137 supervisor shall note such declination in his or her records and  
138 forward the declination to the statewide voter registration  
139 system. However, an applicant's declination may not be used for  
140 any purpose other than voter registration.

141 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
142 98.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

143 98.045 Administration of voter registration.—

144 (4) STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC DATABASE OF VALID RESIDENTIAL  
145 STREET ADDRESSES.—

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146 (b) The department shall make the statewide database of  
147 valid street addresses available to the Department of Highway  
148 Safety and Motor Vehicles as provided in s. 97.057(12) ~~s.~~  
149 ~~97.057(10)~~. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
150 shall use the database for purposes of validating the legal  
151 residential addresses provided in voter registration  
152 applications received by the Department of Highway Safety and  
153 Motor Vehicles.

154 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.