

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Ethics and Elections;  
and Senators Clemens and Richter

576-04236-15

2015228c2

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to online voter registration; creating  
3       s. 97.0525, F.S.; requiring the Division of Elections  
4       of the Department of State to develop an online voter  
5       registration system; providing application and  
6       security requirements; requiring the system to compare  
7       information submitted online with Department of  
8       Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles records; providing  
9       for the disposition of voter registration  
10      applications; requiring system compliance with federal  
11      accessibility provisions; providing for construction;  
12      requiring the division to report to the Legislature  
13      regarding online voter registration implementation by  
14      a specified date; providing an appropriation;  
15      providing an effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
19       Section 1. Section 97.0525, Florida Statutes, is created to  
20 read:

21       97.0525 Online voter registration.-

22       (1) Beginning October 1, 2017, an applicant may submit an  
23 online voter registration application using the procedures set  
24 forth in this section.

25       (2) The division shall establish a secure Internet website  
26 to permit an applicant to:

27       (a) Submit a voter registration application, including  
28 first-time voter registration applications and updates to  
29 existing voter registration records.

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30 (b) Submit information necessary to establish an  
31 applicant's eligibility to vote, pursuant to s. 97.041, which  
32 must include the information required for the uniform statewide  
33 voter registration application pursuant to s. 97.052(2).

34 (c) Swear to the oath required pursuant to s. 97.051.

35 (3) The division shall establish appropriate technological  
36 security measures, including use of a unique identifier for each  
37 applicant, to prevent unauthorized persons from altering a  
38 voter's registration information.

39 (4) (a) The online voter registration system shall compare  
40 the Florida driver license number or Florida identification  
41 number submitted pursuant to s. 97.052(2)(n) with information  
42 maintained by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
43 Vehicles to confirm that the name and date of birth on the  
44 application are consistent with the records of the Department of  
45 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

46 (b) If the applicant's name and date of birth are  
47 consistent with the records of the Department of Highway Safety  
48 and Motor Vehicles, the online voter registration system shall  
49 transmit, using the statewide voter registration system  
50 maintained pursuant to s. 98.035, the applicant's registration  
51 application, along with the digital signature of the applicant  
52 on file with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
53 Vehicles, to the supervisor of elections. The applicant's  
54 digital signature satisfies the signature requirement of s.  
55 97.052(2)(q).

56 (c) If the applicant's name and date of birth cannot be  
57 verified by the records of the Department of Highway Safety and  
58 Motor Vehicles, or if the applicant indicated that he or she has

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59 not been issued a Florida driver license or Florida  
60 identification card, the online voter registration system shall  
61 populate the applicant's information into a printable voter  
62 registration application pursuant to s. 97.052(2) and direct the  
63 applicant to print, sign, and date the application and deliver  
64 the application to the supervisor of elections for disposition  
65 pursuant to s. 97.073.

66 (5) Upon submission of a completed online voter  
67 registration application, the website must generate an immediate  
68 electronic confirmation that the supervisor of elections has  
69 received the application and provide instructions regarding the  
70 ability of a registrant to check the status of the application  
71 thereafter.

72 (6) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the  
73 supervisor of elections shall process the application pursuant  
74 to s. 97.053.

75 (7) The online voter registration system must conform to  
76 nationally accepted standards for accessibility for individuals  
77 with disabilities, including s. 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of  
78 1973, s. 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Web  
79 Content Accessibility Guidelines of the World Wide Web  
80 Consortium, to ensure equal access for voters with disabilities.

81 (8) A legal distinction may not be made between online  
82 voter registration under this section and voter registration in  
83 person, by mail, or by other methods provided by general law.

84 Section 2. No later than January 1, 2016, the Division of  
85 Elections shall submit a report to the President of the Senate  
86 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives regarding the  
87 implementation of online voter registration. In the report, the

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88 division shall summarize progress to date in implementing online  
89 voter registration and expected implementation timeframes, and  
90 shall propose any further legislation needed to facilitate  
91 online voter registration.

92 Section 3. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of \$1.8  
93 million in nonrecurring funds from the Federal Grants Trust Fund  
94 is appropriated to the Department of State to implement this  
95 act.

96 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.