



HB 7143, Engrossed 1

2015

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 to records of the
8 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;
9 providing for the disposition of voter registration
10 applications; requiring system compliance with federal
11 accessibility provisions; providing for construction;
12 requiring a report to the Legislature; providing an
13 appropriation; providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

19 97.0525 Online voter registration.—

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

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

25 (a) Submit a voter registration application, including
26 first-time voter registration applications and updates to



27 | existing voter registration records.

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

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

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

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

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



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53 97.052(2)(q).

54 (c) If the applicant's name and date of birth cannot be
55 verified by the records of the Department of Highway Safety and
56 Motor Vehicles, or if the applicant indicated that he or she has
57 not been issued a Florida driver license or Florida
58 identification card, the online voter registration system shall
59 populate the applicant's information into a printable voter
60 registration application pursuant to s. 97.052(2) and direct the
61 applicant to print, sign, and date the application and deliver
62 the application to the supervisor of elections for disposition
63 pursuant to s. 97.073.

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

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

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



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

82 Section 2. No later than January 1, 2016, the Division of
83 Elections of the Department of State shall submit a report to
84 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
85 Representatives regarding implementation of online voter
86 registration. In the report, the division shall summarize
87 progress to date in implementing online voter registration and
88 expected implementation timeframes and shall propose any further
89 legislation needed to facilitate online voter registration.

90 Section 3. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of \$1.8
91 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is
92 appropriated to the Department of State to implement this act.

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