



HB 541, Engrossed 1

2016

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to addresses of legal residence;  
3           amending s. 97.021, F.S.; defining the term "address  
4           of legal residence"; amending ss. 97.053 and 97.057,  
5           F.S.; requiring a voter registration application to  
6           include the applicant's address of legal residence and  
7           certain additional distinguishing information;  
8           specifying that an applicant's failure to include such  
9           distinguishing information on a voter registration  
10          application does not affect his or her qualifications  
11          to register or vote or cast a ballot; conforming a  
12          provision; amending s. 98.015, F.S.; providing that a  
13          list of valid addresses maintained by a supervisor of  
14          elections include certain additional distinguishing  
15          information; providing duties of the supervisor  
16          relating to voter registration applications; providing  
17          an effective date.

18  
19   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20  
21           Section 1. Subsections (3) through (44) of section 97.021,  
22   Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) through  
23   (45), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to that  
24   section to read:

25           97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except  
26   where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:



27       (3) "Address of legal residence" means the legal  
28 residential address of the elector and includes all information  
29 necessary to differentiate one residence from another,  
30 including, but not limited to, a distinguishing apartment,  
31 suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier.

32       Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section  
33 97.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

34       97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.—

35       (5) (a) A voter registration application is complete if it  
36 contains the following information necessary to establish the  
37 applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041, including:

38       1. The applicant's name.

39       2. The applicant's address of legal residence, including a  
40 distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room  
41 number or other identifier, if appropriate ~~address~~. Failure to  
42 include a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or  
43 dormitory room or other identifier on a voter registration  
44 application does not impact a voter's eligibility to register to  
45 vote or cast a ballot, and such an omission may not serve as the  
46 basis for a challenge to a voter's eligibility or reason to not  
47 count a ballot.

48       3. The applicant's date of birth.

49       4. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant is  
50 a citizen of the United States.

51       5.a. The applicant's current and valid Florida driver  
52 license number or the identification number from a Florida



HB 541, Engrossed 1

2016

53 identification card issued under s. 322.051, or

54       b. If the applicant has not been issued a current and  
55 valid Florida driver license or a Florida identification card,  
56 the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

57  
58 In case an applicant has not been issued a current and valid  
59 Florida driver license, Florida identification card, or social  
60 security number, the applicant shall affirm this fact in the  
61 manner prescribed in the uniform statewide voter registration  
62 application.

63       6. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has  
64 not been convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, has had  
65 his or her civil rights restored.

66       7. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has  
67 not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to  
68 voting or that, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to  
69 vote restored.

70       8. The original signature or a digital signature  
71 transmitted by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
72 Vehicles of the applicant swearing or affirming under the  
73 penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011 that the  
74 information contained in the registration application is true  
75 and subscribing to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the  
76 State Constitution and s. 97.051.

77       Section 3. Subsection (10) of section 97.057, Florida  
78 Statutes, is amended to read:



HB 541, Engrossed 1

2016

79 97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway  
80 Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

81 (10) The department shall provide the Department of  
82 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with an electronic database of  
83 street addresses valid for use as the address of legal residence  
84 ~~address~~ as required in s. 97.053(5). The Department of Highway  
85 Safety and Motor Vehicles shall compare the address provided by  
86 the applicant against the database of valid street addresses. If  
87 the address provided by the applicant does not match a valid  
88 street address in the database, the applicant will be asked to  
89 verify the address provided. The Department of Highway Safety  
90 and Motor Vehicles shall not reject any application for voter  
91 registration for which a valid match cannot be made.

92 Section 4. Subsection (12) of section 98.015, Florida  
93 Statutes, is amended to read:

94 98.015 Supervisor of elections; election, tenure of  
95 office, compensation, custody of registration-related documents,  
96 office hours, successor, seal; appointment of deputy  
97 supervisors; duties.—

98 (12) Each supervisor shall maintain a list of valid  
99 residential street addresses for purposes of verifying the legal  
100 addresses of voters residing in the supervisor's county. To the  
101 maximum extent practicable, the list shall include information  
102 necessary to differentiate one residence from another,  
103 including, but not limited to, a distinguishing apartment,  
104 suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier.



HB 541, Engrossed 1

2016

105 | If a voter registration application does not include information  
106 | necessary to differentiate one residence from another, the  
107 | supervisor shall make all reasonable efforts to obtain such  
108 | information in order to maintain the list of valid residential  
109 | street addresses.

110 | The supervisor shall make all reasonable efforts to coordinate  
111 | with county 911 service providers, property appraisers, the  
112 | United States Postal Service, or other agencies as necessary to  
113 | ensure the continued accuracy of such list. The supervisor shall  
114 | provide the list of valid residential addresses to the statewide  
115 | voter registration system in the manner and frequency specified  
116 | by rule of the department.

117 |       Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.