

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

BILL: SB 666

INTRODUCER: Senator Legg

SUBJECT: Voter Identification

DATE: November 18, 2015 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carlton	Roberts	EE	Favorable
2.			MS	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 666 allows two new forms of identification to be used for the purposes of voter registration and identification at the polls. Specifically, it allows a voter to use his or her Florida Concealed Weapon Permit and a Veteran Health Identification Card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

II. Present Situation:

A voter registration applicant who has never previously voted in Florida and who has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver license, Florida ID card, or social security card is allowed to register to vote by mail¹. However, he or she is required to provide a copy of a current and valid identification, or indicate that he or she is exempt. The following forms of identification are allowed in support of their applications if they contain the name and photograph of the applicant and have not expired:

- U.S. Passport;
- debit or credit card;
- military ID;
- student ID;
- retirement center ID;
- neighborhood association ID; and
- public assistance ID.²

Additionally, the following forms of identification are allowed in support of their applications if they contain the name and current residence address of the applicant:

¹ Section 97.0535(1), F.S.

² Section 97.0535(3)(a), F.S.

- Utility bill;
- bank statement;
- government check;
- paycheck; or
- other government document (excluding voter identification card).³

Currently, s. 101.043, F.S. requires a voter to produce identification at the polls. That Section allows the following forms of identification to satisfy that requirement:

- Florida driver license;
- Florida identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;
- U.S. Passport;
- debit or credit card;
- military ID;
- student ID;
- retirement center ID;
- neighborhood association ID; and
- public assistance ID.⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 666 allows the narrow class of voter registration applicants addressed in 97.0535, F.S. to provide a veteran health identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a form of identification in support of their voter registration application. The bill also allows those individuals to provide a license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued pursuant to Florida law as a form of identification in support of their voter registration application. SB 666 also authorizes those two forms of identification to be used as identification at the polls as required by s. 101.043, F.S. Finally, the bill makes conforming changes to the absentee ballot and special absentee ballot instructions.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

³ Section 97.0535(3)(b), F.S.

⁴ Section 101.043(1)

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: ss. 97.0535, 101.043, 101.68, and 101.6923, F.S.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.