1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to voter registration by the

3   Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;

4   amending s. 97.057, F.S.; revising procedures

5   governing voter registration administered by the

6   Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;

7   providing that driver license or identification card

8   applications, driver license or identification card

9   renewal applications, and changes of address for

10   existing driver licenses or identification cards

11   submitted to the department serve as voter

12   registration applications; specifying that an

13   applicant must consent to the use of his or her

14   signature for voter registration purposes; requiring

15   the department to include a voter registration

16   component on specified applications; providing that

17   the Department of State shall approve the voter

18   registration component; specifying required content

19   for the voter registration component; providing for

20   paper-based applications; requiring the supervisor of

21   elections to provide certain notification to each

22   applicant; providing that an applicant is registered,

23   or has his or her voter registration record updated,

24   if he or she fails to respond to the notification

25   within a specified timeframe; requiring the supervisor

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26   to forward declinations to the statewide voter
27   registration system; amending s. 98.045, F.S.;
28   conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective
29   date.
30
31   WHEREAS, voter registration is one of the biggest barriers
32   to full participation in our democracy, and
33   WHEREAS, Congress enacted the National Voter Registration
34   Act of 1993, commonly known as the "Motor Voter Act," with
35   findings recognizing that the right of citizens to vote is a
36   fundamental right and that federal, state, and local governments
37   have the duty to promote the exercise of this right, and
38   WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to provide residents of
39   this state with enhanced access to participate in democracy
40   through the exercise of their fundamental right to vote by
41   streamlining and modernizing voter registration procedures used
42   by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, NOW,
43   THEREFORE,
44
45   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
46
47   Section 1. Subsections (6) through (12) of section 97.057,
48   Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8) through
49   (14), respectively, subsections (1) through (5) of that section
50   are amended, and new subsections (6) and (7) are added to that

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51 section, to read:

52   97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway

53 Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

54   (Substantial rewording of subsections. See

55   s. 97.057(1)-(5), F.S., for present text.)

56   (1) Each of the following serves as an application to

57 register to vote or to update a voter registration record when

58 submitted to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor

59 Vehicles:

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

61 renewal application or a change of address for an existing

62 driver license.

63   (b) An application for an identification card issued

64 pursuant to chapter 322, including a renewal application or a

65 change of address for an existing identification card.

66

67 For voter registration purposes, an applicant must consent to

68 the use of the signature from his or her driver license or

69 identification card application unless the applicant declines to

70 register to vote or declines to update his or her voter

71 registration record.

72   (2) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

73 shall include a voter registration component on the application

74 for a driver license or an identification card. The voter

75 registration component of a driver license or an identification

76 card application shall be approved by the Department of State
77 and must contain:
78   (a)   The minimum amount of information necessary to prevent
79 duplicate voter registrations and preserve the ability of the
80 department and supervisors of elections to assess the
81 eligibility of the applicant and to administer voter
82 registration and other provisions of the Florida Election Code.
83   (b)   A statement setting forth voting eligibility
84 requirements.
85   (c)   A statement explaining that the applicant consents,
86 for voter registration purposes, to the use of his or her
87 signature from the applicant's driver license or identification
88 card application. By consenting to the use of his or her
89 signature, the applicant is deemed to have subscribed to the
90 oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s.
91 97.051 and to have sworn and affirmed that the voter
92 registration information contained in the application is true
93 under penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011.
94   (d)   An option that allows the applicant to decline to
95 register to vote or to decline to update his or her voter
96 registration record. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor
97 Vehicles shall note any such declination in its records and
98 forward the declination to the statewide voter registration
99 system.
100   (3)   The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

101 shall develop a voter registration component for paper-based
102 renewal applications which meets the requirements in subsection
103 (2) and is approved by the Department of State.
104   (4)   The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
105 shall electronically transmit the voter registration component
106 of an applicant's driver license or identification card
107 application to the statewide voter registration system within 24
108 hours after receipt. Upon receipt of the voter registration
109 component, the Department of State shall provide the information
110 to the supervisor of the county in which the applicant has been
111 registered as an elector. For completed paper-based
112 applications, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
113 Vehicles shall forward the voter registration component to the
114 supervisor of the county where the office that processes or
115 receives that application is located within 5 days after
116 receipt.
117   (5)   Following receipt of the voter registration component,
118 the supervisor shall notify each applicant of the process to:
119   (a)   Decline being registered as an elector or decline to
120 update his or her voter registration record.
121   (b)   Designate a party affiliation if the applicant is not
122 currently registered to vote in this state.
123   (6)   If an applicant who is notified under subsection (5)
124 does not decline to be registered as an elector or does not
125 decline to update his or her voter registration record within 21

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126 calendar days after the supervisor issues the notification, the

127 applicant's voter registration component of his or her

128 application constitutes a completed voter registration

129 application for purposes of this chapter. The applicant shall be

130 registered to vote if the supervisor determines that the

131 applicant is eligible to vote under s. 97.041 and the applicant

132 is not already registered to vote. An applicant who does not

133 respond to the notification to designate a party affiliation

134 shall be registered without party affiliation as provided under

135 s. 97.053(5)(b).

136   (7) If an applicant declines to register to vote or

137 declines to update his or her voter registration record after

138 receiving a notification issued pursuant to subsection (5), the

139 supervisor shall note such declination in his or her records and

140 forward the declination to the statewide voter registration

141 system. However, an applicant's declination may not be used for

142 any purpose other than voter registration.

143   Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section

144 98.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

145   98.045 Administration of voter registration.—

146   (4) STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC DATABASE OF VALID RESIDENTIAL

147 STREET ADDRESSES.—

148   (b) The department shall make the statewide database of

149 valid street addresses available to the Department of Highway

150 Safety and Motor Vehicles as provided in s. 97.057(12) s.

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151 ~~97.057(10)~~. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
152 shall use the database for purposes of validating the legal
153 residential addresses provided in voter registration
154 applications received by the Department of Highway Safety and
155 Motor Vehicles.
156   Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

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