

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; and Senator Martin

594-03804-24

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to voter registration applications;  
3           amending s. 97.053, F.S.; providing an exception to a  
4           requirement that certain voter registration applicants  
5           must be registered without party affiliation; amending  
6           s. 97.057, F.S.; requiring the Department of Highway  
7           Safety and Motor Vehicles to notify certain  
8           individuals of certain information; prohibiting the  
9           department from changing the party affiliation of an  
10          applicant except in certain circumstances; requiring  
11          the department to provide an applicant with a certain  
12          receipt; revising the methods by which an applicant  
13          may decline to register to vote or update certain  
14          voter registration information; prohibiting a person  
15          providing voter registration services for a driver  
16          license office from taking certain actions; requiring  
17          the department to ensure that information technology  
18          processes and updates do not alter certain information  
19          without written consent; requiring the department to  
20          be in full compliance with the act within a certain  
21          period; providing an effective date.

22  
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24  
25           Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section  
26   97.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27           97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.—

28           (5)

29           (b) An applicant who fails to designate party affiliation

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30 must be registered without party affiliation, except that the  
31 party affiliation of an applicant who is updating a voter  
32 registration record may not be changed unless the applicant  
33 designates and consents in writing to a change in party  
34 affiliation. The supervisor must notify the voter by mail that  
35 the voter has been registered without party affiliation and that  
36 the voter may change party affiliation as provided in s.  
37 97.1031.

38 Section 2. Subsections (2) and (6) of section 97.057,  
39 Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (14) is added to  
40 that section, to read:

41 97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway  
42 Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

43 (2) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
44 shall:

45 (a) Notify each individual, orally or in writing, that:

46 1. Information gathered for the completion of a driver  
47 license or identification card application, renewal, or change  
48 of address can be automatically transferred to a voter  
49 registration application;

50 2. If additional information and a signature are provided,  
51 the voter registration application will be completed and sent to  
52 the proper election authority;

53 3. Information provided can also be used to update a voter  
54 registration record, except that party affiliation will not be  
55 changed unless the individual designates a change in party  
56 affiliation and separately consents to such change in writing;

57 4. All declinations will remain confidential and may be  
58 used only for voter registration purposes; and

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59           5. The particular driver license office in which the person  
60 applies to register to vote or updates a voter registration  
61 record will remain confidential and may be used only for voter  
62 registration purposes.

63           (b) Require a driver license examiner to inquire orally or,  
64 if the applicant is hearing impaired, inquire in writing whether  
65 the applicant wishes to register to vote or update a voter  
66 registration record during the completion of a driver license or  
67 identification card application, renewal, or change of address.

68           1. If the applicant chooses to register to vote or to  
69 update a voter registration record:

70           a. All applicable information received by the Department of  
71 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in the course of filling out  
72 the forms necessary under subsection (1) must be transferred to  
73 a voter registration application.

74           b. The additional necessary information must be obtained by  
75 the driver license examiner and must not duplicate any  
76 information already obtained while completing the forms required  
77 under subsection (1).

78           c. A voter registration application with all of the  
79 applicant's voter registration information required to establish  
80 the applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041 must be  
81 presented to the applicant to review and verify the voter  
82 registration information received and provide an electronic  
83 signature affirming the accuracy of the information provided.

84           d. The voter registration application may not be used to  
85 change the party affiliation of the applicant unless the  
86 applicant designates a change in party affiliation and provides  
87 a separate signature consenting to the party affiliation change.

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88 e. After verifying the voter registration information and  
89 providing his or her electronic signature, the applicant must be  
90 provided with a printed receipt that includes such information  
91 and documents any change in party affiliation.

92 2. If the applicant declines to register to vote, update  
93 the applicant's voter registration record, or change the  
94 applicant's address by either orally declining or by failing to  
95 sign the voter registration application, the Department of  
96 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must note such declination on  
97 its records and shall forward the declination to the statewide  
98 voter registration system.

99 (6) A person providing voter registration services for a  
100 driver license office may not:

101 (a) Make any change to an applicant's party affiliation  
102 unless the applicant provides a separate signature consenting to  
103 the party affiliation change or discuss or seek to influence an  
104 applicant's political preference or party registration;

105 (b) Display any political preference or party allegiance;

106 (c) Make any statement to an applicant or take any action  
107 the purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant  
108 from registering to vote; or

109 (d) Disclose any applicant's voter registration information  
110 except as needed for the administration of voter registration.

111 (14) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
112 shall ensure that information technology processes and updates  
113 do not alter an applicant's party affiliation without the  
114 written consent of the applicant.

115 Section 3. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
116 Vehicles must be in full compliance with this act within 3

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117 months after this act becomes a law.

118 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.