

1 HB570
2 159543-1
3 By Representative Melton
4 RFD: Constitution, Campaigns and Elections
5 First Read: 04-MAR-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, an individual cannot
9 register to vote electronically.

10 This bill would allow individuals to
11 register to vote electronically and change voter
12 registration information electronically.

13 This bill would require the Secretary of
14 State to adopt rules to implement electronic voter
15 registration.

16
17 A BILL
18 TO BE ENTITLED
19 AN ACT

20
21 Relating to voter registration; to allow individuals
22 to register to vote electronically and change voter
23 registration information electronically; and to require the
24 Secretary of State to adopt rules to implement electronic
25 voter registration.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1 Section 1. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of
2 Title 17, Code of Alabama 1975, to the contrary, a person may
3 register to vote electronically pursuant to the provisions of
4 this section.

5 (b) The Secretary of State shall ensure that all of
6 the following services are available to the public at any time
7 on the official website of the Secretary of State:

8 (1) Online applications for voter registration, the
9 content of which shall be equivalent to the form provided in
10 Section 17-3-52, Code of Alabama 1975, for use by boards of
11 registrars.

12 (2) Online assistance to those applying to register
13 to vote electronically.

14 (3) Online completion and submission by applicants
15 of voter registration applications, including the electronic
16 signature of the applicant pursuant to subsection (d).

17 (4) Online receipt of completed voter registration
18 applications.

19 (c) An application submitted under this section
20 shall be deemed submitted on the date the completed
21 application is sent electronically to the Secretary of State.

22 (d) An applicant for voter registration may provide
23 an electronic signature by executing a computerized mark in
24 the signature field as instructed on the online application.
25 The Secretary of State shall determine by rule a method for an
26 applicant to submit an electronic copy of his or her
27 handwritten signature through electronic means. After the

1 Secretary of State has adopted the rule, an applicant for
2 voter registration shall submit his or her handwritten
3 signature in the manner prescribed by rule.

4 (e) Upon submission of a completed voter
5 registration application, the official website of the
6 Secretary of State shall generate an immediate electronic
7 confirmation on the website, in printable form, that the
8 application has been received with instructions as to how the
9 applicant may check the status of the application thereafter.

10 (f) The Secretary of State shall accept an online
11 voter registration application submitted under this section
12 and ensure that the individual is registered to vote if the
13 following criteria are met:

14 (1) The individual meets the same voter registration
15 eligibility requirements applicable to individuals who
16 register to vote by mail.

17 (2) The individual provides an electronic signature
18 in accordance with subsection (d).

19 (g) The Secretary of State or a local board of
20 registrars shall inform the applicant of the disposition of
21 his or her application by regular mail and, at the option of
22 the applicant, by e-mail.

23 (h) No legal distinction shall be made between
24 registration under this section and in-person, mail, or other
25 registration method allowed under Title 17, Code of Alabama
26 1975.

1 Section 2. (a) The Secretary of State shall ensure
2 that any legally registered voter may at any time update his
3 or her registration information, including his or her address,
4 online through the official website of the Secretary of State.
5 Any change in voter registration information shall be deemed
6 submitted on the date the updated information is sent
7 electronically to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of
8 State or appropriate board of registrars shall immediately
9 revise any information on the computerized list to reflect any
10 updated information, including a change in voting precinct
11 when appropriate.

12 (b) Upon submission of updated registration
13 information as provided in subsection (a), the official
14 website of the Secretary of State shall generate an immediate
15 electronic confirmation on the website, in printable form,
16 that the change in registration information has been received
17 with instructions as to how the voter may check the status of
18 the change in registration information, including a change in
19 voting precinct when appropriate.

20 (c) The Secretary of State or a local board of
21 registrars shall inform the voter of the disposition of his or
22 her change in voter registration information by regular mail
23 and, at the option of the applicant, by e-mail.

24 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall establish by
25 rule appropriate technological security measures, such as the
26 use of a unique identifier for each registrant, to prevent
27 unauthorized persons from altering an applicant's or

1 registered voter's information and to ensure the accuracy and
2 integrity of voter registration applications submitted
3 electronically pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 of this act.

4 Section 4. This act shall become effective on the
5 first day of the third month following its passage and
6 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.