

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to voter registration; amending s.  
3 97.057, F.S.; revising procedures governing voter  
4 registration by the Department of Highway Safety and  
5 Motor Vehicles; providing that driver license or  
6 identification card applications, license or  
7 identification card renewal applications, and address  
8 updates for existing driver licenses or identification  
9 cards submitted to the department serve as voter  
10 registration applications; specifying that an  
11 applicant consents to the use of his or her signature  
12 for voter registration purposes; requiring specified  
13 applications to include a voter registration  
14 component; specifying required content for the voter  
15 registration component; providing for paper-based  
16 applications; requiring the supervisor of elections to  
17 provide a notification of registration to each  
18 applicant; providing that an applicant is registered  
19 if he or she fails to respond to the notification  
20 within a specified timeframe; requiring the supervisor  
21 to forward declinations to the statewide voter  
22 registration system; amending s. 98.045, F.S.;  
23 conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective  
24 date.

25  
26 WHEREAS, voter registration is one of the biggest barriers

HB 1067

2016

27 | to participation in our democracy, and

28 |       WHEREAS, in 1993, Congress enacted the National Voter  
 29 | Registration Act of 1993, commonly known as the "Motor Voter  
 30 | Act," with findings recognizing that the right of citizens to  
 31 | vote is a fundamental right and that federal, state, and local  
 32 | governments have the duty to promote the exercise of this right,  
 33 | and

34 |       WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to provide residents of  
 35 | this state with enhanced access to participate in democracy  
 36 | through exercise of their fundamental right to vote by  
 37 | streamlining and modernizing voter registration procedures used  
 38 | by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, NOW,  
 39 | THEREFORE,

41 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

43 |       Section 1. Subsections (1) through (5) of section 97.057,  
 44 | Florida Statutes, are amended, new subsections (6) and (7) are  
 45 | added to that section, and present subsections (6) through (12)  
 46 | of that section are renumbered as subsections (8) through (14),  
 47 | respectively, to read:

48 |       97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway  
 49 | Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

50 |       (Substantial rewording of subsections. See  
 51 |       s. 97.057(1)-(5), F.S., for present text.)

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

53 register to vote or to update a voter registration record when  
 54 submitted to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
 55 Vehicles:

56 (a) An application for a driver license, including a  
 57 renewal application or an address update for an existing driver  
 58 license.

59 (b) An application for an identification card issued  
 60 pursuant to chapter 322, including a renewal application or an  
 61 address update for an existing identification card.

62  
 63 For voter registration purposes, an applicant shall consent to  
 64 the use of the signature from his or her driver license or  
 65 identification card application unless the applicant declines to  
 66 register to vote or declines to update his or her voter  
 67 registration record.

68 (2) An application for a driver license or an  
 69 identification card must include a voter registration component.  
 70 The voter registration component must be approved by the  
 71 Department of State. The voter registration component of a  
 72 driver license or identification card application must contain:

73 (a) The minimum amount of information necessary to prevent  
 74 duplicate voter registrations and preserve the ability of the  
 75 department and supervisors of elections to assess the  
 76 eligibility of the applicant and to administer voter  
 77 registration and other parts of the election process.

78 (b) A statement setting forth voting eligibility

79 requirements.

80 (c) An explanation that the applicant has consented, for  
81 voter registration purposes, to the use of his or her signature  
82 from the applicant's driver license or identification card  
83 application. By consenting to the use of his or her signature,  
84 the applicant is deemed to have subscribed to the oath required  
85 by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051 and to  
86 have sworn and affirmed that the voter registration information  
87 contained in the application is true under penalty for false  
88 swearing pursuant to s. 104.011.

89 (d) An option that allows the applicant to decline to  
90 register to vote or to decline to update his or her voter  
91 registration record. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
92 Vehicles shall note any such declination on its records and  
93 forward the declination to the statewide voter registration  
94 system.

95 (3) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
96 shall develop a voter registration component for paper-based  
97 renewal applications which meets the requirements specified in  
98 subsection (2). The voter registration component must be  
99 approved by the Department of State.

100 (4) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
101 shall electronically transmit the voter registration component  
102 of an applicant's driver license or identification card  
103 application to the statewide voter registration system within 24  
104 hours after receipt. Upon receipt of the voter registration

105 component, the Department of State shall provide the information  
106 to the supervisor of the county in which the applicant has been  
107 registered as an elector. For completed paper-based  
108 applications, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
109 Vehicles shall forward the voter registration component to the  
110 supervisor of the county in which the office that processes or  
111 receives that application is located within 5 days after  
112 receipt.

113 (5) Following receipt of voter registration information,  
114 the supervisor shall notify each applicant of the process to:

115 (a) Decline being registered as an elector or decline to  
116 update his or her voter registration record.

117 (b) Adopt a political party affiliation if the applicant  
118 is not currently registered to vote in this state.

119 (6) If an applicant who is notified under subsection (5)  
120 does not decline to be registered as an elector or to update his  
121 or her voter registration record within 21 calendar days after  
122 the supervisor issues the notification, the applicant's voter  
123 registration component of his or her application constitutes a  
124 completed voter registration for purposes of this chapter. The  
125 applicant shall be registered to vote if the supervisor  
126 determines that the applicant is eligible to vote under s.  
127 97.041 and the applicant is not already registered to vote. An  
128 applicant who does not respond to the notification to adopt a  
129 political party affiliation shall be registered without party  
130 affiliation as provided under s. 97.053(5)(b).

131        (7) If an applicant declines to register to vote or to  
 132 update his or her voter registration record after receiving a  
 133 notification issued pursuant to subsection (5), the supervisor  
 134 shall note such declination on his or her records and forward  
 135 the declination to the statewide voter registration system.  
 136 However, an applicant's declination may not be used for any  
 137 purpose other than voter registration.

138        Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
 139 98.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

140        98.045 Administration of voter registration.—

141        (4) STATEWIDE ELECTRONIC DATABASE OF VALID RESIDENTIAL  
 142 STREET ADDRESSES.—

143        (b) The department shall make the statewide database of  
 144 valid street addresses available to the Department of Highway  
 145 Safety and Motor Vehicles as provided in s. 97.057(12) ~~s.~~  
 146 ~~97.057(10)~~. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
 147 shall use the database for purposes of validating the legal  
 148 residential addresses provided in voter registration  
 149 applications received by the Department of Highway Safety and  
 150 Motor Vehicles.

151        Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2017.