

HOUSE BILL NO. 1598

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BOSLEY.

2926H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.155, 115.247, and 115.281, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to voters who are visually impaired.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 115.155, 115.247, and 115.281, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 115.155, 115.247, and 115.281, to read as follows:

115.155. 1. The election authority shall provide for the registration of each voter. **Voter registration applications shall be made available in English, Spanish, and Braille.** Each application shall be in substantially the following form:

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

Are you a citizen of the United States?

YES

NO

Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day?

YES

NO

IF YOU CHECKED "NO" IN RESPONSE TO EITHER OF THESE QUESTIONS, DO NOT COMPLETE THIS FORM.

IF YOU ARE SUBMITTING THIS FORM BY MAIL AND ARE REGISTERING FOR THE FIRST TIME, PLEASE SUBMIT A COPY OF A CURRENT, VALID PHOTO IDENTIFICATION. IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT SUCH INFORMATION, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION UPON VOTING FOR THE FIRST TIME SUCH AS A BIRTH CERTIFICATE, A

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL DOCUMENT, OTHER PROOF OF
18 UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP, A VALID MISSOURI DRIVER'S
19 LICENSE OR OTHER FORM OF PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION.

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22 Township
23 (or Ward)

24 _____

25 _____

26 Name Precinct

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29 Home Address Required
30 Personal
31 Identifica-
32 tion
33 Informa-
34 tion

35 _____

36 City ZIP

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38 _____

39 Place of
40 Birth
41 (Optional)

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44 Mother's
45 Telephone Number Maiden
46 Name
47 (Optional) (Optional)

48 _____

49 _____

50 Last Place
51 Occupation (Optional) Previously
52 Registered

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Last four digits of Social
Security Number
(Required for registration
unless no Social Security
Number exists for Applicant)

Under
What
Name

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Remarks:

Political Party Affiliation
(OPTIONAL: You
shall be unaffiliated
unless you
designate an
affiliation.)

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state of
Missouri. I have not been adjudged incapacitated by any court of law.
If I have been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor connected
with the right of suffrage, I have had the voting disabilities resulting
from such conviction removed pursuant to law. I do solemnly swear
that all statements made on this card are true to the best of my
knowledge and belief.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I REGISTER TO VOTE KNOWING
THAT I AM NOT LEGALLY ENTITLED TO REGISTER, I AM
COMMITTING A CLASS ONE ELECTION OFFENSE AND MAY
BE PUNISHED BY IMPRISONMENT OF NOT MORE THAN FIVE
YEARS OR BY A FINE OF BETWEEN TWO THOUSAND FIVE
HUNDRED DOLLARS AND TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS OR BY
BOTH SUCH IMPRISONMENT AND FINE.

When

Signature of Voter

Date

Signature of Election Official

88 2. The options for political party affiliation required by the application described in
89 subsection 1 of this section shall include all established political parties and an option to be
90 unaffiliated. If an applicant does not designate an affiliation, the election authority shall mark
91 the applicant's form as unaffiliated.

92 3. After supplying all information necessary for the registration records, each
93 applicant who appears in person before the election authority shall swear or affirm the
94 statements on the registration application by signing his or her full name, witnessed by the
95 signature of the election authority or such authority's deputy registration official. Each
96 applicant who applies to register by mail pursuant to section 115.159, or pursuant to section
97 115.160 or 115.162, shall attest to the statements on the application by his or her signature.

98 4. Upon receipt by mail of a completed and signed voter registration application, a
99 voter registration application forwarded by the division of motor vehicle and drivers licensing
100 of the department of revenue pursuant to section 115.160, or a voter registration agency
101 pursuant to section 115.162, the election authority shall, if satisfied that the applicant is
102 entitled to register, transfer all data necessary for the registration records from the application
103 to its registration system. Within seven business days after receiving the application, the
104 election authority shall send the applicant a verification notice. If such notice is returned as
105 undeliverable by the postal service within the time established by the election authority, the
106 election authority shall not place the applicant's name on the voter registration file.

107 5. If, upon receipt by mail of a voter registration application or a voter registration
108 application forwarded pursuant to section 115.160 or 115.162, the election authority
109 determines that the applicant is not entitled to register, such authority shall, within seven
110 business days after receiving the application, so notify the applicant by mail and state the
111 reason such authority has determined the applicant is not qualified. The applicant may file a
112 complaint with the elections division of the secretary of state's office under and pursuant to
113 section 115.219. If an applicant for voter registration fails to answer the question on the
114 application concerning United States citizenship, the election authority shall notify the
115 applicant of the failure and provide the applicant with an opportunity to complete the form in
116 a timely manner to allow for the completion of the registration form before the next election.

117 6. The secretary of state shall prescribe specifications for voter registration
118 documents so that they are uniform throughout the state of Missouri and comply with the
119 National Voter Registration Act of 1993, including the reporting requirements, and so that
120 registrations, name changes and transfers of registrations within the state may take place as
121 allowed by law.

122 7. All voter registration applications shall be preserved in the office of the election
123 authority.

115.247. 1. Each election authority shall provide all ballots for every election within
2 its jurisdiction. Ballots other than those printed by the election authority in accordance with
3 the provisions of this chapter shall not be cast or counted at any election.

4 2. Whenever it appears that an error has occurred in any publication required by the
5 provisions of this chapter, or in the printing of any ballot, any circuit court may, upon the
6 application of any voter, order the appropriate election authorities to correct the error or to
7 show cause why the error should not be corrected.

8 3. For each election held in a county with a charter form of government and with
9 more than two hundred fifty thousand but fewer than three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants,
10 the election authority may provide for each polling place in its jurisdiction fifty-five ballots
11 for each fifty and fraction of fifty voters registered in the voting district at the time of the
12 election. For each election, except a general election, held in any county other than a county
13 with a charter form of government and with more than two hundred fifty thousand but fewer
14 than three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, the election authority shall provide for each
15 polling place in its jurisdiction a number of ballots equal to at least one and one-third times
16 the number of ballots cast in the voting district served by such polling place at the election
17 held two years before at that polling place or at the polling place that served the voting district
18 in the previous election. For each general election held in any county other than a county
19 with a charter form of government and with more than two hundred fifty thousand but fewer
20 than three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, the election authority shall provide for each
21 polling place in its jurisdiction a number of ballots equal to one and one-third times the
22 number of ballots cast in the voting district served by such polling place or at the polling
23 place that served the voting district in the general election held four years prior. When
24 determining the number of ballots to provide for each polling place, the election authority
25 shall consider any factors that would affect the turnout at such polling place. The election
26 authority shall keep a record of the exact number of ballots delivered to each polling place.
27 For purposes of this subsection, the election authority shall not be required to count registered
28 voters designated as inactive pursuant to section 115.193.

29 4. After the polls have closed on every election day, the election judges shall return all
30 unused ballots to the election authority with the other election supplies.

31 5. All ballots cast in public elections shall be printed and distributed at public
32 expense, payable as provided in sections 115.063 to 115.077.

33 **6. The election authority shall print and make available upon request ballots in**
34 **Braille for use by voters who are visually impaired.**

115.281. 1. Except as provided in section 115.914, not later than the sixth Tuesday
2 prior to each election, or within fourteen days after candidates' names or questions are
3 certified pursuant to section 115.125, the election authority shall cause to have printed and

4 made available a sufficient quantity of absentee ballots, ballot envelopes and mailing
5 envelopes. As soon as possible after the proper officer calls a special state or county election,
6 the election authority shall cause to have printed and made available a sufficient quantity of
7 absentee ballots, ballot envelopes and mailing envelopes.

8 2. All absentee ballots for an election shall be in the same form as the official ballots
9 for the election, **including ballots in Braille as required in section 115.247.**

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