

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
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S. B. No. 63

**Senator LaRose
Cosponsors: Senators Hite, Jones, Gardner, Lehner, Hottinger, Skindell, Tavares,
Brown**

A BILL

To amend section 3503.14 and to enact section 1
3503.20 of the Revised Code to create an online 2
voter registration system. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3503.14 be amended and section 4
3503.20 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 5

Sec. 3503.14. (A) The secretary of state shall prescribe 6
the form and content of the registration, change of residence, 7
and change of name forms used in this state. The forms shall 8
meet the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 9
1993 and shall include spaces for all of the following: 10

- (1) The voter's name; 11
- (2) The voter's address; 12
- (3) The current date; 13
- (4) The voter's date of birth; 14
- (5) The voter to provide one or more of the following: 15

(a) The voter's driver's license number, if any;	16
(b) The last four digits of the voter's social security number, if any;	17 18
(c) A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the voter's name and address.	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
(6) The voter's signature.	26
The registration form shall include a space on which the person registering an applicant shall sign the person's name and provide the person's address and a space on which the person registering an applicant shall name the employer who is employing that person to register the applicant.	27 28 29 30 31
Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric character of the information provided by the voter so as to accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of that data to the statewide voter registration database established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code.	32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
(B) None of the following persons who are registering an applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's address, or name the employer who is employing the person to	41 42 43 44

register an applicant on a form prepared under this section:	45
(1) An election official;	46
(2) A county treasurer;	47
(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	48
(4) An employee of a designated agency;	49
(5) An employee of a public high school;	50
(6) An employee of a public vocational school;	51
(7) An employee of a public library;	52
(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;	53
(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;	54
(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	55
(11) An employee of an election official.	56
(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence. The person registering the applicant shall sign the form and attest that the applicant indicated that the applicant desired to register to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence.	57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67
(D) No registration, change of residence, or change of name form shall be rejected solely on the basis that a person registering an applicant failed to sign the person's name or	68 69 70

failed to name the employer who is employing that person to 71
register the applicant as required under division (A) of this 72
section. 73

(E) A voter registration application submitted online 74
through the internet pursuant to section 3503.20 of the Revised 75
Code is not required to contain a signature to be considered 76
valid. The signature obtained under division (B) of that section 77
shall be considered the applicant's signature for all election 78
and signature-matching purposes. 79

(F) As used in this section, "registering an applicant" 80
includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter 81
registration forms or to assist persons in completing or 82
returning those forms. 83

Sec. 3503.20. (A) The secretary of state shall establish a 84
secure online voter registration system. The system shall 85
provide for all of the following: 86

(1) An applicant to submit a voter registration 87
application to the secretary of state online through the 88
internet; 89

(2) The online applicant to be registered to vote, if all 90
of the following apply: 91

(a) The application contains all of the following 92
information: 93

(i) The applicant's name; 94

(ii) The applicant's address; 95

(iii) The applicant's date of birth; 96

(iv) The last four digits of the applicant's social 97

security number; 98

(v) The applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the 99
number of the applicant's state identification card issued under 100
section 4507.50 of the Revised Code. 101

(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the 102
last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and 103
the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of 104
the applicant's state identification card as they are provided 105
in the application are not inconsistent with the information on 106
file with the bureau of motor vehicles; 107

(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have 108
lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the 109
next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or 110
before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise 111
eligible to register to vote; 112

(d) The applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the 113
information submitted in the online application under penalty of 114
election falsification. 115

(B) If an individual registers to vote or a registered 116
elector updates the elector's name, address, or both under this 117
section, the secretary of state shall obtain an electronic copy 118
of the applicant's or elector's signature that is on file with 119
the bureau of motor vehicles. That electronic signature shall be 120
used as the applicant's or elector's signature on voter 121
registration records, for all election and signature-matching 122
purposes. 123

(C) The secretary of state shall employ whatever security 124
measures the secretary of state considers necessary to ensure 125
the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information 126

submitted electronically pursuant to this section. Errors in 127
processing voter registration applications in the online system 128
shall not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from 129
voting. 130

(D) The online voter registration application established 131
under division (A) of this section shall include the following 132
language: 133

"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following 134
under penalty of election falsification, which is punishable by 135
a maximum sentence of imprisonment for twelve months and a fine 136
of \$2,500: 137

(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information 138
is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or 139
update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio. 140

(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is 141
true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form. 142

(3) I am a United States citizen. 143

(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately 144
preceding the next election. 145

(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before 146
the day of the next general election. 147

(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit 148
to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with 149
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that 150
the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will 151
be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic 152
voter registration application as if I had signed this form 153
personally." 154

In order to register to vote or update a voter 155
registration under division (A) of this section, an applicant or 156
elector shall be required to mark the box in the online voter 157
registration application that appears in conjunction with the 158
previous statement. 159

(E) The online voter registration process established 160
under division (A) of this section shall be in operation and 161
available for use by individuals who wish to register to vote or 162
update their voter registration information online not later 163
than the first day of July occurring not fewer than one hundred 164
twenty days after the effective date of this section. During the 165
period beginning on the first day after the close of voter 166
registration before an election and ending on the day of the 167
election, the online voter registration system shall display a 168
notice indicating that the applicant will not be registered to 169
vote for the purposes of that election. 170

Section 2. That existing section 3503.14 of the Revised 171
Code is hereby repealed. 172