As Reported by the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

131st General Assembly

Regular Session 2015-2016

Sub. S. B. No. 63

Senator LaRose

Cosponsors: Senators Hite, Jones, Gardner, Lehner, Hottinger, Tavares, Brown, Coley, Bacon, Balderson, Beagle, Burke, Eklund, Faber, Manning, Obhof, Patton, Peterson, Sawyer, Seitz, Thoms, Uecker, Yuko

Representatives Brown, Smith, R.

A BILL

ГО	amend sections 305.02, 733.08, 733.31, 3503.14,	1
	3503.15, 3503.18, 3503.21, and 3506.05 and to	2
	enact section 3503.20 of the Revised Code to	3
	create an online voter registration system, to	4
	require the Secretary of State annually to	5
	review the Statewide Voter Registration Database	6
	to identify registrants who are not United	7
	States citizens, to modify the procedures for	8
	maintaining the Statewide Voter Registration	9
	Database, to amend the requirements for the	10
	certification of voting equipment, and to	11
	clarify the circumstances under which a	12
	political party may appoint a person to fill a	13
	vacancy in certain elective offices.	14

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

less than four days before the date of such meeting the	46
chairperson or secretary of such central committee shall send by	47
first class mail to every member of such central committee a	48
written notice which shall state the time and place of such	49
meeting and the purpose thereof. A majority of the members of	50
the central committee present at such meeting may make the	51
appointment.	52

6.5

- (D) If the last occupant of the office or the officerelect was elected to serve the current term as an independent
 candidate, the board of county commissioners shall make such
 appointment at the time when the vacancy occurs, except where
 the vacancy is in the office of county commissioner, in which
 case the prosecuting attorney and the remaining commissioners or
 a majority of them shall make the appointment.
- (E) Appointments made under this section shall be certified by the appointing county central committee or by the board of county commissioners to the county board of elections and to the secretary of state, and the persons so appointed and certified shall be entitled to all remuneration provided by law for the offices to which they are appointed.
- (F) The board of county commissioners may appoint a person to hold any of the offices named in division (A) of this section as an acting officer and to perform the duties thereof between the occurrence of the vacancy and the time when the officer appointed by the central committee qualifies and takes the office.
- (G) A person appointed prosecuting attorney or assistant prosecuting attorney shall give bond and take the oath of office prescribed by section 309.03 of the Revised Code for the prosecuting attorney.

Sec. 733.08. (A) In case of the death, resignation, or removal of the mayor, the vacancy in the office of mayor shall be filled, until a successor is elected and qualified, by a person chosen by the residents of that city who are members of the city central committee if there is one, or if not then of the county central committee, of the political party with which that nominated the last occupant of the office was affiliated as a candidate for that office for the current term. If the vacancy occurs because of the death, resignation, or inability to take office of a mayor-elect, an appointment to take the office at the beginning of the term shall be made by the members of the central committee who reside in the city where the vacancy occurs.

Not less than five nor more than forty-five days after the vacancy occurs, the specified members of the city or county committee shall meet to make an appointment to fill the vacancy. Not less than four days before the date of the meeting the committee chairperson or secretary shall send, by mail to every member eligible to vote on filling the vacancy, a written notice stating the date, time, and place of the meeting and its purpose. A majority of the eligible members present at the meeting may make the appointment.

If the last occupant of the office of mayor or the mayorelect was elected to serve the current term as an independent candidate, the vacancy shall be filled, until a successor is elected and qualified, by election by the legislative authority.

(B) If a vacancy in the office of mayor occurs more than 102 forty days before the next regular municipal election, a 103 successor shall be elected at that election for the unexpired 104 term unless the unexpired term ends within one year immediately 105

142

143

144

145

146

147

148

- (D) In case of the death, resignation, removal, or disability of the director of law, auditor, or treasurer of a city and such vacancy occurs more than forty days before the next general election for such office, a successor shall be elected at such election for the unexpired term unless such term expires within one year immediately following the date of such general election. In either event, the vacancy shall be filled as provided in this section and the appointee shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified.
- (1) The county central committee of the political party 150 with which that nominated the last occupant of the office was 151 affiliated as a candidate for that office for the current term, 152 acting through its members who reside in the city where the 153 vacancy occurs, shall appoint a person to hold the office and to 154 perform the duties thereof until a successor is elected and has 155 qualified, except that if such vacancy occurs because of the 156 death, resignation, or inability to take the office of an 157 officer-elect whose term has not yet begun, an appointment to 158 take such office at the beginning of the term shall be made by 159 the members of the central committee who reside in the city 160 where the vacancy occurs. 161
- (2) Not less than five nor more than forty-five days after

 162
 a vacancy occurs, the county central committee, acting through
 its members who reside in the city where the vacancy occurs,

 164

and change of name forms used in this state. The forms shall

1993 and shall include spaces for all of the following:

meet the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of

191

192

Sub. S. B. No. 63

Page 8

shall provide any information and data to the secretary of state	276
that is collected in the course of normal business and that is	277
necessary to register to vote, to update an elector's	278
registration, or to maintain the statewide voter registration	279
database established pursuant to this section, except where	280
prohibited by federal law or regulation. The department of	281
health, the bureau of motor vehicles, the department of job and	282
family services, the department of medicaid, and the department	283
of rehabilitation and corrections shall provide that information	284
and data to the secretary of state not later than the last day	285
of each month. The secretary of state shall ensure that any	286
information or data provided to the secretary of state that is	287
confidential in the possession of the entity providing the data	288
remains confidential while in the possession of the secretary of	289
state. No public office, and no public official or employee,	290
shall sell that information or data or use that information or	291
data for profit.	292

- (b) Information provided under this division for maintenance of the statewide voter registration database shall not be used to update the name or address of a registered elector. The name or address of a registered elector shall only be updated as a result of the elector's actions in filing a notice of change of name, change of address, or both.
- (c) A board of elections shall contact a registered elector pursuant to the rules adopted under division (D)(7) of this section to verify the accuracy of the information in the statewide voter registration database regarding that elector if that information does not conform with information provided under division (A)(2)(a) of this section and the discrepancy would affect the elector's eligibility to cast a regular ballot.

- (3) (a) The secretary of state shall enter into agreements 306 to share information or data that is in the possession of the 307 secretary of state with other states or groups of states, as the 308 secretary of state considers necessary, in order to maintain the 309 statewide voter registration database established pursuant to 310 this section. Except as otherwise provided in division (A)(3)(b) 311 of this section, the secretary of state shall ensure that any 312 information or data provided to the secretary of state that is 313 confidential in the possession of the state providing the data 314 remains confidential while in the possession of the secretary of 315 state. 316
- (b) The secretary of state may provide such otherwise 317 confidential information or data to persons or organizations 318 that are engaging in legitimate governmental purposes related to 319 the maintenance of the statewide voter registration database. 320 The secretary of state shall adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 321 119. of the Revised Code identifying the persons or 322 organizations who may receive that information or data. The 323 secretary of state shall not share that information or data with 324 a person or organization not identified in those rules. The 325 secretary of state shall ensure that a person or organization 326 that receives confidential information or data under this 327 division keeps the information or data confidential in the 328 person's or organization's possession by, at a minimum, entering 329 into a confidentiality agreement with the person or 330 organization. Any confidentiality agreement entered into under 331 this division shall include a requirement that the person or 332 organization submit to the jurisdiction of this state in the 333 event that the person or organization breaches the agreement. 334
- (4) No person or entity that receives information or data 335 under division (A)(3) of this section shall sell the information 336

Sub. S. B. No. 63 As Reported by the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee	Page 20
common pleas shall file with the board the names and residence	539
addresses of all persons who have been convicted during the	540
previous month of crimes that would disfranchise such persons	541
under existing laws of the state. Reports of conviction of	542
crimes under the laws of the United States that would	543
disfranchise an elector and that are provided to the secretary	544
of state by any United States attorney shall be forwarded by the	545
secretary of state to the appropriate board of elections.	546
(D) Upon receiving a report required by this section, the	547
board of elections shall promptly cancel the registration of	548
each elector named in the report in accordance with section	549
3503.21 of the Revised Code. If the report contains a residence	550
address of an elector in a county other than the county in which	551
the board of elections is located, the director shall promptly	552
send a copy of the report to the appropriate board of elections,	553
which shall cancel the registration in accordance with that	554
section.	555
Sec. 3503.20. (A) The secretary of state shall establish a	556
secure online voter registration system. The system shall	557
<pre>provide for all of the following:</pre>	558
(1) An applicant to submit a voter registration	559
application to the secretary of state online through the	560
<pre>internet;</pre>	561
(2) The online applicant to be registered to vote, if all	562
of the following apply:	563
(a) The application contains all of the following	564
<pre>information:</pre>	565
(i) The applicant's name;	566
(ii) The applicant's address;	567

Sub. S. B. No. 63 As Reported by the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee	
measures the secretary of state considers necessary to ensure	597
the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information	598
submitted electronically pursuant to this section. Errors in	599
processing voter registration applications in the online system	600
shall not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from	601
voting.	602
(D) The online voter registration application established	603
under division (A) of this section shall include the following	604
<pre>language:</pre>	605
"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following	606
under penalty of election falsification, which is a felony of	607
the fifth degree:	608
(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information	609
is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or	610
update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio.	611
(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is	612
true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form.	613
(3) I am a United States citizen.	614
(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately	615
preceding the next election.	616
(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before	617
the day of the next general election.	618
(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit	619
to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with	620
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that	621
the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will	622
be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic	623
voter registration application as if I had signed this form	624

residence to a location outside the registrant's current county	682
of registration. Any procedures prescribed in this division	683
shall be uniform and nondiscriminatory, and shall comply with	684
the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The secretary of state may	685
prescribe procedures under this division that include the use of	686
the national change of address service provided by the United	687
States postal system through its licensees. Any program so	688
prescribed shall be completed not later than ninety days prior	689
to the date of any primary or general election for federal	690
office.	691

- (2) The registration of any elector identified as having changed the elector's voting residence to a location outside the elector's current county of registration shall not be canceled unless the registrant is sent a confirmation notice on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and the registrant fails to respond to the confirmation notice or otherwise update the registration and fails to vote in any election during the period of two federal elections subsequent to the mailing of the confirmation notice.
- (C) The registration of a registered elector shall not be canceled except as provided in this section, division (Q) of section 3501.05 of the Revised Code, division (C) (2) of section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, or division (C) of section 3503.24 of the Revised Code.
- (D) Boards of elections shall send their voter 706 registration information to the secretary of state as required 707 under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code. The secretary of 708 state may prescribe by rule adopted pursuant to section 111.15 709 of the Revised Code the format in which the boards of elections 710 must send that information to the secretary of state. In the 711

733734

735

736

737

738

739740

741

first quarter of each year, the secretary of state shall send 712 the information to the national change of address service 713 described in division (B) of this section and request that 714 service to provide the secretary of state with a list of any 715 voters sent by the secretary of state who have moved within the 716 last twelve months. The secretary of state shall transmit to 717 each appropriate board of elections whatever lists the secretary 718 of state receives from that service. The board shall send a 719 notice to each person on the list transmitted by the secretary 720 of state requesting confirmation of the person's change of 721 address, together with a postage prepaid, preaddressed return 722 envelope containing a form on which the voter may verify or 723 correct the change of address information. 724

- (E) The registration of a registered elector described in 725 division (A)(7) or (B)(2) of this section shall be canceled not 726 later than one hundred twenty days after the date of the second 727 general federal election in which the elector fails to vote or 728 not later than one hundred twenty days after the expiration of 729 the four-year period in which the elector fails to vote or 730 respond to a confirmation notice, whichever is later. 731
- (F) (1) When a registration is canceled pursuant to division (A) (2) or (3) of this section, the applicable board of elections shall send a written notice, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to the address at which the elector was registered, informing the recipient that the elector's registration has been canceled, of the reason for the cancellation, and that if the cancellation was made in error, the elector may contact the board of elections to correct the error.
 - (2) If the elector's registration is canceled pursuant to

770

approve equipment and its related manuals and support

arrangements. The board shall consist of four members, who shall

be appointed as follows:

- (1) Two members appointed by the secretary of state. 772
- (2) One member appointed by either the speaker of the 773 house of representatives or the minority leader of the house of 774 representatives, whichever is a member of the opposite political 775 party from the one to which the secretary of state belongs. 776
- (3) One member appointed by either the president of the 777 senate or the minority leader of the senate, whichever is a 778 member of the opposite political party from the one to which the 779 secretary of state belongs. 780

In all cases of a tie vote or a disagreement in the board, 781 if no decision can be arrived at, the board shall submit the 782 matter in controversy to the secretary of state, who shall 783 summarily decide the question, and the secretary of state's 784 decision shall be final. Each member of the board shall be a 785 competent and experienced election officer or a person who is 786 knowledgeable about the operation of voting equipment and shall 787 serve during the secretary of state's term. Any vacancy on the 788 board shall be filled in the same manner as the original 789 790 appointment. The secretary of state shall provide staffing assistance to the board, at the board's request. 791

For the member's service, each member of the board shall 792 receive three hundred dollars per day for each combination of 793 marking device, tabulating equipment, voting machine, or 794 electronic pollbook examined and reported, but in no event shall 795 a member receive more than six hundred dollars to examine and 796 report on any one marking device, item of tabulating equipment, 797 voting machine, or electronic pollbook. Each member of the board 798 799 shall be reimbursed for expenses the member incurs during an

examination or during the performance of any related duties that	800
may be required by the secretary of state. Reimbursement of	801
these expenses shall be made in accordance with, and shall not	802
exceed, the rates provided for under section 126.31 of the	803
Revised Code.	804
Neither the secretary of state nor the board, nor any	805
public officer who participates in the authorization,	806
examination, testing, or purchase of equipment, shall have any	807
pecuniary interest in the equipment or any affiliation with the	808
vendor.	809
(C)(1) A vendor who desires to have the secretary of state	810
certify equipment shall first submit the equipment, all current	811
related procedural manuals, and a current description of all	812
related support arrangements to the board of voting machine	813
examiners for examination, testing, and approval. The submission	814
shall be accompanied by a fee of two thousand four hundred	815
dollars and a detailed explanation of the construction and	816
method of operation of the equipment, a full statement of its	817
advantages, and a list of the patents and copyrights used in	818
operations essential to the processes of vote recording and	819
tabulating, vote storage, system security, pollbook storage and	820
security, and other crucial operations of the equipment as may	821
be determined by the board. An additional fee, in an amount to	822
be set by rules promulgated by the board, may be imposed to pay	823
for the costs of alternative testing or testing by persons other	824
than board members, record-keeping, and other extraordinary	825
costs incurred in the examination process. Moneys not used shall	826
be returned to the person or entity submitting the equipment for	827

(2) Fees collected by the secretary of state under this

828

829

examination.

section shall be deposited into the state treasury to the credit 830 of the board of voting machine examiners fund, which is hereby 831 created. All moneys credited to this fund shall be used solely 832 for the purpose of paying for the services and expenses of each 833 member of the board or for other expenses incurred relating to 834 the examination, testing, reporting, or certification of 835 equipment, the performance of any related duties as required by 836 the secretary of state, or the reimbursement of any person 837 submitting an examination fee as provided in this chapter. 838

(D) Within sixty days after the submission of the 839 equipment and payment of the fee, or as soon thereafter as is 840 reasonably practicable, but in any event within not more than 841 ninety days after the submission and payment, the board of 842 voting machine examiners shall examine the equipment and file 843 with the secretary of state a written report on the equipment 844 with its recommendations and, if applicable, its determination 845 or condition of approval regarding whether the equipment, 846 manual, and other related materials or arrangements meet the 847 criteria set forth in sections 3506.07 and 3506.10 of the 848 Revised Code and can be safely used by the voters at elections 849 under the conditions prescribed in Title XXXV of the Revised 850 Code, or a written statement of reasons for which testing 851 requires a longer period. The board may grant temporary approval 852 for the purpose of allowing experimental use of equipment. If 853 the board finds that the equipment meets any applicable criteria 854 set forth in sections 3506.06, 3506.07, and 3506.10 of the 855 Revised Code, can be used safely and, if applicable, can be 856 depended upon to record and count accurately and continuously 857 the votes of electors, and has the capacity to be warranted, 858 maintained, and serviced, it shall approve the equipment and 859 recommend that the secretary of state certify the equipment. The 860 secretary of state shall notify all boards of elections of any such certification. Equipment of the same model and make, if it operates in an identical manner, may then be adopted for use at elections.

863 864

865

866

867

868

869870

871

872873

874

875

876

877

878

879

880

881

882

861

862

(E) The vendor shall notify the secretary of state, who shall then notify the board of voting machine examiners, of any enhancement and any significant adjustment to the hardware or software that could result in a patent or copyright change or that significantly alters the methods of recording voter intent, system security, voter privacy, retention of the vote, communication of records, and connections between the system and other systems. The vendor shall provide the secretary of state with an updated operations manual for the equipment, and the secretary of state shall forward the manual to the board. Upon receiving such a notification and manual, the board may require the vendor to submit the equipment to an examination and test in order for the equipment to remain certified. The board or the secretary of state shall periodically examine, test, and inspect certified equipment to determine continued compliance with the requirements of this chapter and the initial certification. Any examination, test, or inspection conducted for the purpose of continuing certification of any equipment in which a significant problem has been uncovered or in which a record of continuing problems exists shall be performed pursuant to divisions (C) and (D) of this section, in the same manner as the examination, test, or inspection is performed for initial approval and certification.

883 884

885

886

(F) If, at any time after the certification of equipment, the board of voting machine examiners or the secretary of state is notified by a board of elections of any significant problem with the equipment or determines that the equipment fails to

887 888

889

890

meet the requirements necessary for approval or continued	892
compliance with the requirements of this chapter, or if the	893
board of voting machine examiners determines that there are	894
significant enhancements or adjustments to the hardware or	895
software, or if notice of such enhancements or adjustments has	896
not been given as required by division (E) of this section, the	897
secretary of state shall notify the users and vendors of that	898
equipment that certification of the equipment may be withdrawn.	899
(G)(1) The notice given by the secretary of state under	900
division (F) of this section shall be in writing and shall	901
specify both of the following:	902
(a) The reasons why the certification may be withdrawn;	903
(b) The date on which certification will be withdrawn	904
unless the vendor takes satisfactory corrective measures or	905
explains why there are no problems with the equipment or why the	906
enhancements or adjustments to the equipment are not	907
significant.	908
(2) A vendor who receives a notice under division (F) of	909
this section shall, within thirty days after receiving it,	910
submit to the board of voting machine examiners in writing a	911
description of the corrective measures taken and the date on	912
which they were taken, or the explanation required under	913
division (G)(1)(b) of this section.	914
(3) Not later than fifteen days after receiving a written	915
description or explanation under division (G)(2) of this section	916
from a vendor, the board shall determine whether the corrective	917
measures taken or the explanation is satisfactory to allow	918
continued certification of the equipment, and the secretary of	919
state shall send the vendor a written notice of the board's	920

determination, specifying the reasons for it. If the board has determined that the measures taken or the explanation given is unsatisfactory, the notice shall include the effective date of withdrawal of the certification. This date may be different from the date originally specified in division (G)(1)(b) of this section.

- (4) A vendor who receives a notice under division (G)(3) of this section indicating a decision to withdraw certification may, within thirty days after receiving it, request in writing that the board hold a hearing to reconsider its decision. Any interested party shall be given the opportunity to submit testimony or documentation in support of or in opposition to the board's recommendation to withdraw certification. Failure of the vendor to take appropriate steps as described in division (G)(1) (b) or to comply with division (G)(2) of this section results in a waiver of the vendor's rights under division (G)(4) of this section.
- (H)(1) The secretary of state, in consultation with the board of voting machine examiners, shall establish, by rule, guidelines for the approval, certification, and continued certification of the voting machines, marking devices, tabulating equipment, and electronic pollbooks to be used under Title XXXV of the Revised Code. The guidelines shall establish procedures requiring vendors or computer software developers to place in escrow with an independent escrow agent approved by the secretary of state a copy of all source code and related documentation, together with periodic updates as they become known or available. The secretary of state shall require that the documentation include a system configuration and that the source code include all relevant program statements in low- or high-level languages. As used in this division, "source code"

does not include variable codes created for specific elections. 952 (2) Nothing in any rule adopted under division (H) of this 953 section shall be construed to limit the ability of the secretary 954 of state to follow or adopt, or to preclude the secretary of 955 state from following or adopting, any guidelines proposed by the 956 957 federal election commission, any entity authorized by the federal election commission to propose guidelines, the election 958 959 assistance commission, or any entity authorized by the election assistance commission to propose guidelines. 960 (3) (a) Before the initial certification of any direct 961 recording electronic voting machine with a voter verified paper 962 audit trail, and as a condition for the continued certification 963 and use of those machines, the secretary of state shall 964 establish, by rule, standards for the certification of those 965 machines. Those standards shall include, but are not limited to, 966 all of the following: 967 (i) A definition of a voter verified paper audit trail as 968 a paper record of the voter's choices that is verified by the 969 voter prior to the casting of the voter's ballot and that is 970 securely retained by the board of elections; 971 (ii) Requirements that the voter verified paper audit 972 trail shall not be retained by any voter and shall not contain 973 individual voter information; 974

(iii) A prohibition against the production by any direct 975 recording electronic voting machine of anything that legally 976 could be removed by the voter from the polling place, such as a 977 receipt or voter confirmation; 978

(iv) A requirement that paper used in producing a voter 979 verified paper audit trail be sturdy, clean, and resistant to 980

degradation;	981
(v) A requirement that the voter verified paper audit	982
trail shall be capable of being optically scanned for the	983
purpose of conducting a recount or other audit of the voting	984
machine and shall be readable in a manner that makes the voter's	985
ballot choices obvious to the voter without the use of computer	986
or electronic codes;	987
(vi) A requirement, for office-type ballots, that the	988
voter verified paper audit trail include the name of each	989
candidate selected by the voter;	990
(vii) A requirement, for questions and issues ballots,	991
that the voter verified paper audit trail include the title of	992
the question or issue, the name of the entity that placed the	
question or issue on the ballot, and the voter's ballot	994
selection on that question or issue, but not the entire text of	995
the question or issue.	996
(b) The secretary of state, by rule adopted under Chapter	997
119. of the Revised Code, may waive the requirement under	998
division (H)(3)(a)(v) of this section, if the secretary of state	999
determines that the requirement is cost prohibitive.	1000
(4)(a) Except as otherwise provided in division divisions	1001
(H)(4)(b) and (c) of this section, any voting machine, marking	1002
device, or automatic tabulating equipment <u>used in this state</u>	1003
shall meet, as a condition of continued certification and use,	1004
the voting system standards adopted by the federal election	1005
commission in 2002 or the voluntary voting system guidelines	1006
most recently adopted by the federal election assistance	1007
commission. A voting machine, marking device, or automatic	1008
tabulating equipment initially certified or acquired on or after	1009

Sub. S. B. No. 63 As Reported by the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee	Page 37
3503.14, 3503.15, 3503.18, 3503.21 and 3506.05 of the Revised	1039
Code are hereby repealed.	1040