

HOUSE BILL 553

By Lamar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
Chapter 2, relative to voter registration.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-201, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) In addition to any other voter registration procedure provided for by law, the department of safety and each county election commission shall register voters in accordance with this section.

(b) The department of safety shall obtain, as part of any application for the issuance or renewal of a driver license or photo identification license, the information required to register a voter in this state. An application must include:

(1) A box to permit the applicant to decline to register to vote that includes the statement "IF YOU DO NOT CHECK THIS BOX, AND IT IS DETERMINED THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, YOU WILL BE REGISTERED TO VOTE USING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS APPLICATION.";

(2) A statement specifying each eligibility requirement for voting in this state as specified in § 2-2-102; and

(3) An attestation to permit the applicant, under penalty of perjury, and by the applicant's signature, to indicate whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements for voting in this state.

(c) The department of safety shall provide to the appropriate county election commission a copy of the application of each applicant who does not check the box to

indicate that the applicant declines to register to vote and who signs the attestation on the application indicating that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements for voting in this state. Applications provided by the department of safety under this subsection (c) may be submitted to a county election commission electronically.

(d) Upon receipt of an application, the administrator of elections for the county election commission shall register the person to vote. The application of an applicant who is registered to vote under this section must be processed as an in-person voter registration.

(e) A county election commission shall not use any information of an applicant for any purpose other than for an official purpose of the commission.

(f) The department of safety shall provide any change of residential address form with respect to a driver license or photo identification license to the appropriate county election commission in the manner set forth under subsection (c). The provision of the form to a county election commission serves as notification of a change in residential address for purposes of voter registration.

(g) The motor vehicle driver license or photo identification license application and change of residential address forms used in this state are subject to approval by the secretary of state for purposes of voter registration under this section.

(h) The department of safety shall transmit an application or change of residential address form in accordance with this section to the appropriate county election commission not later than ten (10) days after the date of acceptance; provided, that if the application or form is accepted within five (5) days of the last day for registration to vote in an election, the department shall transmit the application or form to the appropriate county election commission not later than five (5) days after the date of acceptance.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 2, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new section:

(a) In addition to any other voter registration procedure provided for by law, the department of safety and each county election commission shall register voters in accordance with this section.

(b) The department of safety shall obtain, as part of any application for the issuance or renewal of a driver license, the issuance of a driver permit, or the issuance of a photo identification license to a person that is at least fifteen (15) years of age but not more than eighteen (18) years of age, the information required to register a voter in this state. An application must include:

(1) A box to permit the applicant to indicate the applicant's desire to not be registered to vote upon turning eighteen (18) years of age;

(2) A statement specifying each eligibility requirement for voting in this state as specified in § 2-2-102; and

(3) An attestation to permit the applicant, under penalty of perjury, and by the applicant's signature, to indicate whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements for voting in this state, other than the requirement that the applicant is eighteen (18) years of age.

(c) The department of safety shall provide to the appropriate county election commission a copy of the application of each applicant who does not check the box to indicate that the applicant declines to register to vote and who signs the attestation on the application indicating that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements for voting in this state, other than the requirement that the applicant is eighteen (18) years of age. Applications provided by the department of safety under this subsection (c) may be submitted to a county election commission electronically.

(d) The administrator of elections for the county election commission shall, when the applicant turns eighteen (18) years of age, register the applicant to vote. The

application of an applicant who is registered to vote under subsection (d) must be processed as an in-person voter registration.

(e) A county election commission shall not use any information of an applicant for any purpose other than for an official purpose of the commission.

(f) For any applicant registered under this section, the department of safety shall provide any change of residential address form with respect to a driver permit, driver license, or photo identification license to the appropriate county election commission in the manner set forth under subsection (c). The provision of the form to a county election commission serves as notification of a change in residential address for purposes of future voter registration.

(g) The motor vehicle learner permit, driver license, or photo identification license application and change of residential address forms used in this state are subject to approval by the secretary of state for purposes of voter registration under this section.

(h) The department of safety shall transmit an application or change of residential address form in accordance with this section to the appropriate county election commission as soon as practicable upon receipt.

SECTION 3. The department of safety is not required to comply with this act until the department updates or creates new electronic or paper applications, forms, or other documents to which this act would otherwise apply, as applicable. The department may exhaust existing supplies of applications, forms, and documents to which this act would otherwise apply before complying with this act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, for purposes of carrying out any administrative duties necessary to implement the provisions of this act, the public welfare requiring it. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019, for all other purposes, the public welfare requiring it.