

HOUSE BILL 597

By Clemmons

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2 and Title 49, relative to elections.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-112(c), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead the following:

(c) For purposes of verifying the person's identification on the application for ballot, "evidence of identification" is:

(1) A Tennessee driver license;

(2) A valid identification card issued by this state or the United States where authorized by law to issue personal identification; provided, that such identification card contains a photograph of the voter;

(3) An identification card issued to a current student by a public institution of higher education containing a photograph of the student;

(4) A valid identification card issued pursuant to § 55-50-336;

(5) A valid United States passport;

(6) A valid employee identification card issued by this state or the United States where authorized by law to issue employee identification; provided, that such identification card contains a photograph of the voter;

(7) A valid United States military identification card; provided, that such identification card contains a photograph of the voter; or

(8) An employee identification card for retired state employees authorized pursuant to § 8-50-118.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-115, is amended by deleting subdivision (b)(7).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-6-201, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) A registered voter may vote absentee by mail according to the procedures outlined in this part in a primary election, election, or runoff election. A registered voter is not required to provide a reason in order to cast an absentee ballot by mail; provided, that the voter submits a certification as to the identity of the voter, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, with the application for a by-mail absentee ballot.

(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an absentee ballot that is not defective and that is cast in accordance with subsection (a) must be counted for the election in which the ballot is cast, including during a recount.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-6-202, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(3)(G) and substituting instead the following language:

(G) The certification required under § 2-6-201.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-6-401(c), is amended by deleting the language "or that category of persons otherwise".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-8-101, is amended by deleting subsection (b).

SECTION 7. For purposes of promulgating rules and carrying out administrative duties necessary to effectuate the provisions and intent of this act, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect on July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.