

SENATE BILL 136

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
Chapter 2, Part 1, relative to maintaining voter
registration lists.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-133(a)(1), is amended by deleting the last sentence and substituting instead:

The report must contain each decedent's full name, last address, date and place of birth, date of death, social security number, and date of report to the coordinator of elections. If the date of death for a decedent is not able to be provided, the state office of vital records of the department of health shall clearly delineate the date of death as "UNKNOWN," or otherwise use a standard and uniform designation to convey the same meaning, which can be quantified for reporting analysis.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-133(b), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting instead:

(1) The coordinator of elections shall annually obtain information regarding Tennessee residents eighteen (18) years of age or over identified as deceased by the federal social security administration death master file.

(2) In a year with a November general election, the coordinator of elections shall obtain the information required under subdivision (b)(1) no more than sixty (60) days prior to the date of a November general election.

(3) In a year without a November general election, the coordinator of elections shall obtain the information required under subdivision (b)(1) in March and September.

(4) The coordinator of elections from may obtain the information required under subdivision (b)(1) at any other time of the year aside from the designated requirements in (2) or (3).

(5)

(A) The coordinator of elections shall, after obtaining the information, notify each county election commission of all persons of voting age who are listed as deceased with an address in their county.

(B) The report must contain the date of death and date of report to the coordinator of elections.

(C) If the date of death for a decedent is not provided by the federal social security administration death master file, the coordinator of elections shall clearly delineate the date of death as "UNKNOWN," or otherwise use a standard and uniform designation to convey the same meaning, which can be quantified for reporting analysis.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-133, is amended by adding the following new subsections:

() For notifications and reports compiled or transmitted by the coordinator of elections and distributed to county election commissions under subsections (a) and (b), the date of death, or its standard and uniform designation if unknown, and date of report to the coordinator of elections must be included. The county election commissions shall then update the voter registration record to include the date of death, or its standard and uniform designation if unknown, date of report to the coordinator of elections, date received by the county election commission, and the source of the report.

() The coordinator of elections and the county election commissions shall retain both an electronic and paper copy of all reports and information received under this

section for a minimum of twenty-four (24) months. The reports and information are open to public records request and inspection. Public notice must be given thirty (30) days in advance of their destruction.

()

(1) The coordinator of elections shall prepare a report for the general assembly on an annual basis that measures the timeliness, data latency, and accuracy of date of death information.

(2) The report under () (1) must include, at a minimum, the number of unknown dates of death by report source, the number of known dates of death by report source, the proportion of unknown dates of death to the total counts of dates of death by report source, and an analysis of the length of time from the date of death to the point at which this information is updated in the state automated electoral system and the county election commission voter registration systems, by report source.

(3) A copy of this report must be published and accessible by the public on the secretary of state's website no later than thirty (30) days from its submission to the general assembly, and both an electronic and paper copy must be retained for a minimum of seven (7) years.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.