

SENATE BILL 837

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, relative to voter registration upon application or renewal of driver licenses and photo identification cards.

WHEREAS, voting is a civic duty that is often taken for granted; and

WHEREAS, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. §§ 20501 et seq.) provides the foundation and opportunity to build a society full of civically engaged citizens; and

WHEREAS, voting should be made more accessible for all people; and

WHEREAS, the youth feel disenfranchised, because they do not see their opinions and ideas executed in government; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 50, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a)

(1) Every applicant for a driver license or a renewal of the license or photo identification card issued by the department of safety shall be automatically registered to vote upon their eighteenth birthday.

(2) Any person who is older than the age of eighteen (18) and who has been previously issued a valid driver license or photo identification card by the department, and is registered to vote, shall be afforded the opportunity to update personal information required by the county election commission.

(3) Any person who is older than the age of eighteen (18) and who has been previously issued a valid driver license or photo identification card, and is

not registered to vote, shall be automatically registered to vote upon renewing the person's driver license.

(b) This section is supplemental to the voter registration requirements in title 2 or other state law. Any individuals not registered to vote shall be permitted to register to vote through voter registration procedures established under title 2 or other state law.

(c) If an individual wishes to revoke the individual's status as a registered voter, then the individual shall be permitted to "opt out" through forms completed at the division of motor vehicles. These forms shall include a driver license or a renewal of the license, or photo identification card.

(d) If an individual wants to revoke the individual's status as a registered voter, then the individual shall be permitted to "opt out" through a voter registration notification card, which shall be sent with the official laminated copy of the individual's driver license.

The voter registration notification card shall include the following choices:

(1) To select the option declining to be registered and mail back the postcard; or

(2) If the individual takes no action the individual shall become registered as an voter after twenty-one (21) days.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.