

SENATE BILL 1834

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40,
Chapter 29, relative to voting rights.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-201, is amended by deleting subsection (b).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-202, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

A person rendered infamous and deprived of the right of suffrage by the judgment of any state or federal court shall have the right of suffrage restored upon:

- (1) Receiving a pardon, except where the pardon contains special conditions pertaining to the right of suffrage;
- (2) The discharge from custody by reason of service or expiration of the maximum sentence imposed by the court for the infamous crime; or
- (3) Being granted a certificate of final discharge from supervision by the director of probation and parole pursuant to § 40-28-609, or any equivalent discharge by another state, the federal government, or county correction authority.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-203, is amended by deleting subsections (a) and (b) and substituting instead the following:

(a) Upon the occurrence of one (1) of the qualifying events listed in § 40-29-202, a person eligible to have the right of suffrage restored shall be issued a certificate of voting rights restoration upon a form prescribed by the coordinator of elections by:

- (1) The pardoning authority;

- (2) The warden or an agent or officer of the incarcerating authority; or
- (3) A parole officer or another agent or officer of the supervising

authority.

(b)

(1) The issuing authority shall supply the person being released with a written statement explaining the purpose and effect of the certificate of voting rights restoration and explaining the procedure by which the person may use the certificate to apply for and receive a voter registration card.

(2) Any authority issuing a certificate of restoration shall forward a copy of the certificate to the coordinator of elections.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-205, is amended by deleting the language "and become eligible to vote as required by this part".

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 29, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

40-29-206.

Any person whose right of suffrage has been restored pursuant to § 40-29-202 but who has not received a certificate of voting rights restoration may request, and then shall be issued, a certificate upon a form prescribed by the coordinator of elections by:

- (1) The pardoning authority;
- (2) The warden or an agent or officer of the incarcerating authority; or
- (3) A parole officer or another agent or officer of the supervising

authority.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-105, is amended by deleting subdivisions (b)(2), (b)(3), (b)(4), (b)(5), (b)(6), and (c)(7).

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-105(c)(5), is amended by deleting the language "and send a copy of the order to the state coordinator of elections".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 40-29-105(c)(2)(B), is amended by deleting the language "provided, that a person convicted of murder, rape, treason or voter fraud shall never be eligible to register and vote in this state;".

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.