

SENATE BILL 2613

By Campbell

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

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-109(a), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting the following:

A qualified voter may register or have the voter's registration altered at the commission office when the office is open, except that applications for registration must not be processed for fourteen (14) days before an election, except as provided in subsection (b); provided, that a qualified voter may file a mail registration form by postmarking the registration form or submitting the registration form fifteen (15) days before an election. A mail registration form lacking a postmark, but signed and dated at least fifteen (15) days before an election, is timely filed if it is received by the county election commission no later than the twelfth day prior to the election. A qualified voter may correct a deficient but timely filed mail registration form if the voter files a completed registration application or otherwise corrects the deficiency on or before the next regularly scheduled November general election. The administrator of elections shall register the person to vote if the person is otherwise eligible to register. Deficient registrations not corrected on or before the next regularly scheduled November general election are no longer considered deficient and are void. The administrator may update an existing registration until no later than five (5) days before an election to place it within the correct precinct in the county when a voter changes the voter's address through the process described in § 2-7-140.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-109(b), is amended by deleting the language "thirtieth day" and substituting the language "fifteenth day".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-109(c), is amended by deleting the language "twenty-nine (29) days" and substituting the language "fifteen (15) days".

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Commissions shall maintain a system on their website to enable persons to verify the status of their voter registration application in real time as denoted by a timeline.

The division of elections in the office of the secretary of state shall develop, maintain, and make the system available to the commissions.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-104, is amended by adding the following as new subsections:

(f) County election commissions shall conduct a uniform training program for poll watchers not later than forty-five (45) days prior to each federal primary election. The coordinator of elections shall develop and implement the training program and educational materials to be used in the training program, in consultation with county election commissioners from each political party.

(g) The division of elections shall create a program for county election commissioners to recruit eligible persons from community colleges created under title 49, chapter 8 and high schools to become poll watchers. The division shall collaborate with the community colleges and local election commissions in creating the program.

SECTION 6. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.