

# HB521 INTRODUCED



1 7YG92E-1  
2 By Representative Simpson  
3 RFD: Constitution, Campaigns and Elections  
4 First Read: 24-May-23  
5 2023 Regular Session



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SYNOPSIS:

There is no provision in state law that provides for political party registration.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of State to create a form posted on its website to allow residents of voting age to register a political party affiliation with the Secretary of State.

This bill would authorize the Secretary of State to provide a political party with a list of registrants with that political party under certain circumstances.

This bill would provide for criminal penalties for violations.

This bill would be repealed on January 1, 2027.

Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, prohibits a general law whose purpose or effect would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds from becoming effective with regard to a local governmental entity without enactment by a 2/3 vote unless: it comes within one of a number of specified exceptions; it is approved by the affected entity; or the Legislature appropriates funds, or provides a local source of revenue, to the entity for the purpose.

The purpose or effect of this bill would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds



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29 within the meaning of the amendment. However, the bill  
30 does not require approval of a local governmental  
31 entity or enactment by a 2/3 vote to become effective  
32 because it comes within one of the specified exceptions  
33 contained in the amendment.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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40 Relating to voting; to authorize the Secretary of State  
41 to offer certain state residents the ability to register their  
42 political party affiliation and provide a list of party  
43 registrants to a political party in certain circumstances; to  
44 provide criminal penalties for violations; to provide for the  
45 repeal of this act on a certain date; and in connection  
46 therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement  
47 of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the  
48 meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of  
49 2022.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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Section 1. (a) The Secretary of State may offer on its  
52 website a form to allow residents of this state who are 18  
53 years of age or older to register their political party  
54 affiliation by completing, signing, and returning the form to  
55 the Secretary of State.

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(b) Any individual who knowingly completes or signs the



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57 form described in subsection (a) on behalf of another  
58 individual commits the crime of tampering with governmental  
59 records in violation of Section 13A-10-12, Code of Alabama  
60 1975.

61 (c) Upon request, the Secretary of State, not more than  
62 four times per calendar year, may provide a political party  
63 with a list of all individuals registered with that political  
64 party.

65 (d) The Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement  
66 this section.

67 (e) For purposes of this section, political party means  
68 a political party described in Section 17-13-40, Code of  
69 Alabama 1975.

70 (f) This section is repealed on January 1, 2027.

71 Section 2. Although this bill would have as its purpose  
72 or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of  
73 local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements  
74 and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of  
75 Alabama of 2022, because the bill defines a new crime or  
76 amends the definition of an existing crime.

77 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the first  
78 day of the third month following its passage and approval by  
79 the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.