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HB 541, Engrossed 1

2016 Legislature

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2 An act relating to addresses of legal residence;
3 amending s. 97.021, F.S.; defining the term "address
4 of legal residence"; amending ss. 97.053 and 97.057,
5 F.S.; requiring a voter registration application to
6 include the applicant's address of legal residence and
7 certain additional distinguishing information;
8 specifying that an applicant's failure to include such
9 distinguishing information on a voter registration
10 application does not affect his or her qualifications
11 to register or vote or cast a ballot; conforming a
12 provision; amending s. 98.015, F.S.; providing that a
13 list of valid addresses maintained by a supervisor of
14 elections include certain additional distinguishing
15 information; providing duties of the supervisor
16 relating to voter registration applications; providing
17 an effective date.

18
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21 Section 1. Subsections (3) through (44) of section 97.021,
22 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) through
23 (45), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to that
24 section to read:

25 97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except
26 where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:



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27 (3) "Address of legal residence" means the legal
28 residential address of the elector and includes all information
29 necessary to differentiate one residence from another,
30 including, but not limited to, a distinguishing apartment,
31 suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier.

32 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
33 97.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

34 97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.—

35 (5) (a) A voter registration application is complete if it
36 contains the following information necessary to establish the
37 applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041, including:

38 1. The applicant's name.

39 2. The applicant's address of legal residence, including a
40 distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room
41 number or other identifier, if appropriate ~~address~~. Failure to
42 include a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or
43 dormitory room or other identifier on a voter registration
44 application does not impact a voter's eligibility to register to
45 vote or cast a ballot, and such an omission may not serve as the
46 basis for a challenge to a voter's eligibility or reason to not
47 count a ballot.

48 3. The applicant's date of birth.

49 4. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant is
50 a citizen of the United States.

51 5.a. The applicant's current and valid Florida driver
52 license number or the identification number from a Florida



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53 identification card issued under s. 322.051, or

54 b. If the applicant has not been issued a current and
55 valid Florida driver license or a Florida identification card,
56 the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

57
58 In case an applicant has not been issued a current and valid
59 Florida driver license, Florida identification card, or social
60 security number, the applicant shall affirm this fact in the
61 manner prescribed in the uniform statewide voter registration
62 application.

63 6. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has
64 not been convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, has had
65 his or her civil rights restored.

66 7. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has
67 not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to
68 voting or that, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to
69 vote restored.

70 8. The original signature or a digital signature
71 transmitted by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
72 Vehicles of the applicant swearing or affirming under the
73 penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011 that the
74 information contained in the registration application is true
75 and subscribing to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the
76 State Constitution and s. 97.051.

77 Section 3. Subsection (10) of section 97.057, Florida
78 Statutes, is amended to read:



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79 97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway
80 Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

81 (10) The department shall provide the Department of
82 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with an electronic database of
83 street addresses valid for use as the address of legal residence
84 ~~address~~ as required in s. 97.053(5). The Department of Highway
85 Safety and Motor Vehicles shall compare the address provided by
86 the applicant against the database of valid street addresses. If
87 the address provided by the applicant does not match a valid
88 street address in the database, the applicant will be asked to
89 verify the address provided. The Department of Highway Safety
90 and Motor Vehicles shall not reject any application for voter
91 registration for which a valid match cannot be made.

92 Section 4. Subsection (12) of section 98.015, Florida
93 Statutes, is amended to read:

94 98.015 Supervisor of elections; election, tenure of
95 office, compensation, custody of registration-related documents,
96 office hours, successor, seal; appointment of deputy
97 supervisors; duties.—

98 (12) Each supervisor shall maintain a list of valid
99 residential street addresses for purposes of verifying the legal
100 addresses of voters residing in the supervisor's county. To the
101 maximum extent practicable, the list shall include information
102 necessary to differentiate one residence from another,
103 including, but not limited to, a distinguishing apartment,
104 suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier.



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105 | If a voter registration application does not include information
106 | necessary to differentiate one residence from another, the
107 | supervisor shall make all reasonable efforts to obtain such
108 | information in order to maintain the list of valid residential
109 | street addresses.

110 | The supervisor shall make all reasonable efforts to coordinate
111 | with county 911 service providers, property appraisers, the
112 | United States Postal Service, or other agencies as necessary to
113 | ensure the continued accuracy of such list. The supervisor shall
114 | provide the list of valid residential addresses to the statewide
115 | voter registration system in the manner and frequency specified
116 | by rule of the department.

117 | Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.