

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 531

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE NICHOLS.

1208H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 115, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to automatic voter registration.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 115, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 115.950, to read as follows:

**115.950. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the office of the secretary of state shall establish a process to conduct automatic voter registration based on driver's license information which shall provide recommendations to local election authorities for the automatic registration of eligible voters.**

**2. The department of revenue and the motor vehicle and driver licensing division shall, periodically as required by rule or policy, provide the secretary of state's office the records of any person who is issued an original or renewal driver's license or non-driver's identification card, including the person's name, age, residence address, electronic signature, and any other information the office of the secretary of state specifies is necessary to conduct recommendations for automatic voter registration. Notwithstanding section 115.165 or any other provision of law to the contrary, any time a person changes his or her address of record with the department of revenue, the department of revenue shall send notice of such change to the secretary of state's office to update the person's voter registration records. The secretary of state shall update the voter's records upon receipt of such notice.**

**3. The office of the secretary of state shall provide lists of non-binding recommendations for inclusion on voter registration lists to local election authorities and**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 such authorities shall include such recommendations on voter registration lists subject to  
19 existing verification procedures for determining whether an individual is eligible to register  
20 to vote and eligible to vote. Local election authorities shall retain full jurisdiction and  
21 power to decline to register individuals not verified to be eligible to vote and to remove the  
22 names of individuals who are no longer eligible to vote from voter registration lists.

23 4. Within two months of receipt of a proposed voter registration list, but prior to  
24 including a recommended individual on a voter registration list, the local election authority  
25 shall send notice of potential automatic registration which shall include a paid postcard for  
26 purposes of declining registration. If, after a period of one month, the postcard is not  
27 returned to the local election authority, the individual's name shall be added to the voter  
28 registration list; except that, any time a postcard is received, the individual's name shall  
29 be removed from the voter registration list. This subsection shall not be construed to  
30 prevent removal from voter registration lists by any other method allowed under this  
31 chapter.

32 5. The provisions of this section allow for automatic voter registration in addition  
33 to any other method of registration allowed under this chapter and shall not be interpreted  
34 to invalidate any other method for voter registration.

35 6. The provisions of this section with regard to the office of the secretary of state,  
36 the department of revenue, and local election authorities shall be subject to the  
37 appropriation and payment of funds necessary to conduct automatic voter registration and  
38 verification procedures.

39 7. The office of the secretary of state may promulgate all necessary rules for the  
40 administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in  
41 section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become  
42 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and,  
43 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and if any  
44 of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay  
45 the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held  
46 unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted  
47 after August 28, 2017, shall be invalid and void.

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