

HOUSE BILL 1955

By Rudd

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

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

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

2-2-143. Registration of third-party voter registration organizations.

(a) Before engaging in a voter registration event or program, a third-party voter
registration organization must register and provide to the coordinator of elections, in an
electronic format, the following information:

- (1) The names of the officers of the organization and the name and
permanent address of the organization;
- (2) The name and address of the organization's registered agent in this
state;
- (3) The names, permanent addresses, and temporary addresses, if any,
of each registration agent registering persons to vote in this state on behalf of the
organization. This subdivision (a)(3) does not apply to persons who only solicit
applications and do not collect or handle voter registration applications;
- (4) The specific general election cycle for which the third-party voter
registration organization is registering persons to vote; and
- (5) An affirmation that each person collecting or handling voter
registration applications on behalf of the third-party voter registration organization
has not been convicted of a felony violation under this title, § 39-15-502, or § 39-
16-703.

(b) The registration of a third-party voter registration organization automatically expires at the conclusion of the specific general election cycle for which the third-party voter registration organization is registered.

(c) The county election commissions shall make voter registration forms available to third-party voter registration organizations. All such forms must contain information identifying the organization to which the forms are provided. Each county election commission shall provide to the coordinator of elections information on voter registration forms assigned to and received from third-party voter registration organizations. The coordinator shall maintain a database of all third-party voter registration organizations and the voter registration forms assigned to the third-party voter registration organization. The information must be provided in a format, and at times, as required by the coordinator by rule. The coordinator shall update information on third-party voter registrations daily and make the information publicly available.

(d) A third-party voter registration organization that collects voter registration applications shall provide a receipt to an applicant upon accepting possession of the applicant's application. The coordinator of elections shall adopt by rule a uniform format for the receipt. The format must include, but need not be limited to, the name of the applicant, the date the application is received, the name of the third-party voter registration organization, the name of the registration agent, and the county in which the applicant resides.

(e) The coordinator of elections shall adopt by rule a form to elicit specific information concerning the facts and circumstances from a person who claims to have been registered to vote by a third-party voter registration organization but who does not appear as an active voter on the voter registration rolls. The coordinator of elections shall also adopt rules to ensure the integrity of the registration process, including

controls to ensure that all completed forms are promptly delivered to the county election commission in the county in which the applicant resides.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-142(e), is amended by adding the following sentence to the end of the subsection:

The date on which an applicant signs a voter registration application is presumed to be the date on which the third-party voter registration organization received or collected the voter registration application.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-2-142, is amended by deleting subsection (g), substituting the following, and redesignating the remaining subsections accordingly:

(g) A person or organization collecting voter registrations shall not:

(1) Mail or otherwise provide a voter registration application upon which any information about an applicant has been filled in before it is provided to the applicant. This subdivision (g)(1) does not apply to government agencies providing voter registration as authorized under this chapter;

(2) Allow an individual convicted of a felony violation under this title, § 39-15-502, or § 39-16-703 to collect or handle a voter registration application from another person; or

(3) Alter the voter registration form of any person without the person's knowledge and consent.

(h)

(1) The state election commission may impose a maximum civil penalty up to:

(A) Fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each violation of subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) or subdivision (g)(1); and

(B) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation of subdivision (g)(2) or (g)(3).

(2) For any violation or violations, the state election commission shall send, by return mail, receipt requested, an assessment letter to the person or organization in a form sufficient to advise the person or organization of the factual basis of the violation or violations, the total civil penalty, and the date a response to the letter must be filed. Refusal of or failure to timely claim an assessment letter sent by return mail, receipt requested, constitutes acceptance of the assessment letter for purposes of service.

(3) To request a waiver of reduction in or to in any way contest a penalty imposed by the state election commission, a person or organization shall file a petition with the state election commission. Such petition may be considered as commencing a contested case proceeding under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect November 6, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.