OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Substitute Bill Comparative Synopsis

Sub. H.B. 552

135th General Assembly

House Government Oversight

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This table summarizes how the latest substitute version of the bill differs from the immediately preceding version. It addresses only the topics on which the two versions differ substantively. It does not list topics on which the two bills are substantively the same.

H.B. 552 (As Introduced)	Sub. H.B. 552 (l_135_2466-5)
Voter roll maintenance – reports to boards of elections	
Requires the Secretary of State (SOS), on a weekly basis, to compare the information in the Statewide Voter Registration Database (SWVRD) to Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) and Social Security Administration (SSA) records, to identify voter registration records with missing or incorrect identifying information, and send a report to each board of elections. *(R.C. 3503.14 and 3503.151).*	Requires the SOS to do this report on a monthly basis, including verifying whether the elector is a U.S. citizen, and to conduct a review immediately after the voter registration deadline for each election. If an existing registrant's voter registration record indicates the registrant has not provided proof of citizenship to the board of elections, requires the board to send the person a notice that the person must provide proof of citizenship, or the person will be required to cast a provisional ballot. If the person does not respond to two notices, requires the person's registration record to be marked as required to cast a provisional ballot (these ballots may be cured as under current law by providing proof of citizenship within four days of the election), and the person must be referred to the Attorney General or appropriate prosecuting authority for criminal prosecution. *(R.C. 3501.01, 3503.01, 3503.14, 3503.151, 3503.152, 3503.153, 3503.201, 3503.202, 3505.181, and 3505.182).*

H.B. 552 (As Introduced)	Sub. H.B. 552 (l_135_2466-5)
Requires the SOS to make these reports available to the public on the Secretary's website, redacting information that is not public record. *(R.C. 3503.151).*	Same, except also requires the SOS to publish information on individuals' citizenship status, including whether it could be verified and if so, the date of verification and the evidence used, whether a person registered with a state or federal form, and whether individuals had to vote provisionally in a previous election and why, unless the ballot was subsequently cured. *(R.C. 3503.15 and 3503.153).*
No provision.	Requires electors to register with an Ohio driver's license or state identification number (Ohio DL/ID), permitting them to register with the last four digits of their Social Security number (SSN-4) only if they do not have an Ohio DL/ID. *(R.C. 3503.14).*
No provision.	Removes a provision of law prohibiting removing people from voter rolls in the 90 days before a federal election. *(R.C. 3503.152(E)).*
No provision.	Requires the SOS to prepare an information pamphlet about verifying citizenship. *(R.C. 3503.152).*
No provision.	Requires the SWVRD website to have contact information for all boards of elections. *(R.C. 3503.153).*
No provision.	Repeals provisions of law permitting a person's birthday in the voter registration database to be January 1, 1800 (a placeholder used for certain situations), meaning that the birthday in the database must match the birthday as indicated on a person's proof of citizenship. *(R.C. 3505.183).*
Confirmation notices	
Requires the board of elections to send each elector with missing or incorrect identifying information a confirmation notice, and requires the elector to vote provisionally at the next election unless the elector's information is corrected. *(R.C. 3503.151(E)(4) and 3503.201).*	Same, except requires the confirmation notices to include instructions about verifying citizenship, as well as forms for cancellation of registration if the person chooses to do so. *(R.C. 3503.151).*

H.B. 552 (As Introduced)	Sub. H.B. 552 (l_135_2466-5)
Citizenship verification	
No provision.	Requires boards of elections to verify that a person is a U.S. citizen before registering the person to vote or updating the person's address or name, including verifying the evidence that a person is a U.S. citizen, using a list of approved state and federal databases. *(R.C. 3503.14,3503.16, 3503.19, and 3503.201).*
No provision.	Requires the SOS to train boards of elections how to verify the U.S. citizenship of voter registration applicants. *(R.C. 3501.05).*
No provision.	Defines the documents that may be used as proof of citizenship: an Ohio DL/ID number if citizenship verified, an Ohio DL/ID issued on or after April 7, 2023, without a noncitizen designation, a birth certificate or consular report of birth abroad, a passport or passport card, a certificate of naturalization or certificate of citizenship. *(R.C. 501.01(EE)).*
No provision.	Defines citizenship verification sources to include databases maintained by: the BMV; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database, the Person Centric Query Service, the Person Centric Identity Services (PCQS), or the Central Index System (CIS); U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); SSA; Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Health, Department of Medicaid, and Department of Rehabilitation and Correction; or any federal agency that maintains federal jury pool data or naturalization records. *(R.C. 3501.01(FF)).*
No provision.	Specifies that an elector's proof of citizenship submitted as part of the elector's voter registration is a public record subject to disclosure. *(R.C. 3503.13).*
No provision.	Requires the SOS to share these databases with boards of elections, except where prohibited by federal law. *(R.C. 3503.151).*

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No provision.	Permits a person who cannot provide documentary evidence that the person is a U.S. citizen to request a hearing before a board of elections to prove the person is a U.S. citizen. *(R.C. 3503.012).*
No provision.	Requires libraries to provide free copies of documents proving citizenship, such as passports or birth certificates. *(R.C. 3375.011).*
No provision.	Requires a person, when challenged at the polls by an election official as a noncitizen, to vote provisionally unless the person can produce evidence of citizenship that has already been verified by the board of elections (i.e., the evidence used to register to vote) *(R.C. 3505.20).*
No provision.	Requires uniformed and overseas voters to provide this evidence as well, and also evidence of their overseas address. *(R.C. 3511.02 and 3511.14).*
Provisional voting and petitions	
No provision.	Invalidates a person's signature on an election-related petition if that person had to cast a provisional ballot and has not cured that ballot. *(R.C. 3503.06).*
Absent voter's ballots	
No provision.	Prohibits any person from personally delivering to the office of the board of elections an absent voter's ballot for more than two electors other than themselves per election. *(R.C. 3509.05).*
No provision.	Requires any person delivering an absent voter's ballot to the office of the board, whether their own ballot or that of another person, to show photo identification. If delivering on behalf of a family member, the person also must sign an attestation that the person is a permitted family member, and is delivering the ballot at the elector's request. *(R.C. 3509.05).*