



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### **S.B. 63**

131st General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Sens.** LaRose, Hite, Jones, Gardner, Lehner, Hottinger, Skindell, Tavares, Brown

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires the Secretary of State to establish a secure online process for voter registration and registration updates and specifies information that an applicant must provide to use the online system.
- Requires the Secretary of State to obtain an electronic copy of the applicant's signature that is on file with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, to be used as the applicant's signature on voter registration records.
- Requires the online voter registration system, during the period beginning 29 days before the day of an election and ending on the day of the election to display a notice indicating that the applicant will not be registered to vote for the purposes of that election.
- Requires the Secretary of State to employ whatever security measures the Secretary considers necessary to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the system.
- Specifies that errors in processing voter registration applications in the online system must not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from voting.
- Requires the online voter registration process to be in operation and available for use not later than the first day of July occurring not fewer than 120 days after the bill's effective date.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Online voter registration application

The bill requires the Secretary of State to establish a secure online process for voter registration. The system must allow an applicant to register to vote or to update the applicant's name, address, or both.

The applicant must provide all of the following information:

- The applicant's name;
- The applicant's address;
- The applicant's date of birth;
- The last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number;
- The applicant's Ohio driver's license or state ID card number.

Under the bill, the applicant must be qualified to register to vote and must attest to the truth and accuracy of the information submitted in the application under penalty of election falsification. The online application must include the following language, along with a box that the applicant must mark in order to submit the application:

By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following under penalty of election falsification, which is punishable by a maximum sentence of imprisonment for twelve months and a fine of \$2,500:

(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio.

(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form.

(3) I am a United States citizen.

(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately preceding the next election.

(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before the day of the next general election.



(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic voter registration application as if I had signed this form personally.

The bill specifies that during the period beginning 29 days before the day of an election and ending on the day of the election, the online voter registration system must display a notice indicating that the applicant will not be registered to vote for the purposes of that election. Under continuing law, a person must be registered to vote not later than 30 days before the day of an election in order to vote in that election.<sup>1</sup>

### **Processing applications**

Under the bill, when an individual uses the online system to register to vote or to update the individual's registration, the information provided on the application must not be inconsistent with the information on file with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). The Secretary of State must obtain an electronic copy of the individual's signature that is on file with the BMV to be used as the individual's signature on voter registration records, for all election and signature-matching purposes. The bill specifies that an application submitted through the online registration system need not contain a signature in order to be valid.<sup>2</sup>

### **Administration**

The bill requires the Secretary of State to employ whatever security measures the Secretary considers necessary to ensure the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information submitted electronically through the online system. The bill also specifies that errors in processing voter registration applications in the online system must not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from voting.

The online voter registration process must be in operation and available for use not later than the first day of July occurring not fewer than 120 days after the bill's effective date.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3503.01, not in the bill, and 3503.20(A), (D), and (E).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3503.14 and 3503.20(A)(2)(b) and (B).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3503.20(C) and (E).



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## HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

02-18-15

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