

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**S. B. No. 63**

**Senator LaRose  
Cosponsors: Senators Hite, Jones, Gardner, Lehner, Hottinger, Skindell, Tavares,  
Brown**

---

**A BILL**

To amend section 3503.14 and to enact section 1  
3503.20 of the Revised Code to create an online 2  
voter registration system. 3

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3503.14 be amended and section 4  
3503.20 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 3503.14.** (A) The secretary of state shall prescribe 6  
the form and content of the registration, change of residence, 7  
and change of name forms used in this state. The forms shall 8  
meet the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 9  
1993 and shall include spaces for all of the following: 10

- (1) The voter's name; 11
- (2) The voter's address; 12
- (3) The current date; 13
- (4) The voter's date of birth; 14
- (5) The voter to provide one or more of the following: 15

(a) The voter's driver's license number, if any;	16
(b) The last four digits of the voter's social security number, if any;	17 18
(c) A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the voter's name and address.	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
(6) The voter's signature.	26
The registration form shall include a space on which the person registering an applicant shall sign the person's name and provide the person's address and a space on which the person registering an applicant shall name the employer who is employing that person to register the applicant.	27 28 29 30 31
Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric character of the information provided by the voter so as to accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of that data to the statewide voter registration database established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code.	32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
(B) None of the following persons who are registering an applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's address, or name the employer who is employing the person to	41 42 43 44

register an applicant on a form prepared under this section:	45
(1) An election official;	46
(2) A county treasurer;	47
(3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	48
(4) An employee of a designated agency;	49
(5) An employee of a public high school;	50
(6) An employee of a public vocational school;	51
(7) An employee of a public library;	52
(8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;	53
(9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;	54
(10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;	55
(11) An employee of an election official.	56
(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence. The person registering the applicant shall sign the form and attest that the applicant indicated that the applicant desired to register to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence.	57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67
(D) No registration, change of residence, or change of name form shall be rejected solely on the basis that a person registering an applicant failed to sign the person's name or	68 69 70

failed to name the employer who is employing that person to 71  
register the applicant as required under division (A) of this 72  
section. 73

(E) A voter registration application submitted online 74  
through the internet pursuant to section 3503.20 of the Revised 75  
Code is not required to contain a signature to be considered 76  
valid. The signature obtained under division (B) of that section 77  
shall be considered the applicant's signature for all election 78  
and signature-matching purposes. 79

(F) As used in this section, "registering an applicant" 80  
includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter 81  
registration forms or to assist persons in completing or 82  
returning those forms. 83

**Sec. 3503.20.** (A) The secretary of state shall establish a 84  
secure online voter registration system. The system shall 85  
provide for all of the following: 86

(1) An applicant to submit a voter registration 87  
application to the secretary of state online through the 88  
internet; 89

(2) The online applicant to be registered to vote, if all 90  
of the following apply: 91

(a) The application contains all of the following 92  
information: 93

(i) The applicant's name; 94

(ii) The applicant's address; 95

(iii) The applicant's date of birth; 96

(iv) The last four digits of the applicant's social 97

security number; 98

(v) The applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the 99  
number of the applicant's state identification card issued under 100  
section 4507.50 of the Revised Code. 101

(b) The applicant's name, address, and date of birth, the 102  
last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and 103  
the applicant's Ohio driver's license number or the number of 104  
the applicant's state identification card as they are provided 105  
in the application are not inconsistent with the information on 106  
file with the bureau of motor vehicles; 107

(c) The applicant is a United States citizen, will have 108  
lived in this state for thirty days immediately preceding the 109  
next election, will be at least eighteen years of age on or 110  
before the day of the next general election, and is otherwise 111  
eligible to register to vote; 112

(d) The applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the 113  
information submitted in the online application under penalty of 114  
election falsification. 115

(B) If an individual registers to vote or a registered 116  
elector updates the elector's name, address, or both under this 117  
section, the secretary of state shall obtain an electronic copy 118  
of the applicant's or elector's signature that is on file with 119  
the bureau of motor vehicles. That electronic signature shall be 120  
used as the applicant's or elector's signature on voter 121  
registration records, for all election and signature-matching 122  
purposes. 123

(C) The secretary of state shall employ whatever security 124  
measures the secretary of state considers necessary to ensure 125  
the integrity and accuracy of voter registration information 126

submitted electronically pursuant to this section. Errors in 127  
processing voter registration applications in the online system 128  
shall not prevent an applicant from becoming registered or from 129  
voting. 130

(D) The online voter registration application established 131  
under division (A) of this section shall include the following 132  
language: 133

"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following 134  
under penalty of election falsification, which is punishable by 135  
a maximum sentence of imprisonment for twelve months and a fine 136  
of \$2,500: 137

(1) I am the person whose name and identifying information 138  
is provided on this form, and I desire to register to vote, or 139  
update my voter registration, in the State of Ohio. 140

(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is 141  
true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form. 142

(3) I am a United States citizen. 143

(4) I will have lived in Ohio for thirty days immediately 144  
preceding the next election. 145

(5) I will be at least eighteen years of age on or before 146  
the day of the next general election. 147

(6) I authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit 148  
to the Ohio Secretary of State my signature that is on file with 149  
the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and I understand and agree that 150  
the signature transmitted by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will 151  
be used by the Secretary of State to validate this electronic 152  
voter registration application as if I had signed this form 153  
personally." 154

In order to register to vote or update a voter 155  
registration under division (A) of this section, an applicant or 156  
elector shall be required to mark the box in the online voter 157  
registration application that appears in conjunction with the 158  
previous statement. 159

(E) The online voter registration process established 160  
under division (A) of this section shall be in operation and 161  
available for use by individuals who wish to register to vote or 162  
update their voter registration information online not later 163  
than the first day of July occurring not fewer than one hundred 164  
twenty days after the effective date of this section. During the 165  
period beginning on the first day after the close of voter 166  
registration before an election and ending on the day of the 167  
election, the online voter registration system shall display a 168  
notice indicating that the applicant will not be registered to 169  
vote for the purposes of that election. 170

**Section 2.** That existing section 3503.14 of the Revised 171  
Code is hereby repealed. 172