

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 78**

**Representatives Miller, J., Hall, T.**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Click, Brennan, Grim, Rader, Williams, Denson,  
Russo**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 3501.01 and to enact sections 1  
4507.60, 4507.61, and 4507.62 of the Revised 2  
Code to authorize the use of a digital driver's 3  
license or state identification card. 4

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

**Section 1.** That section 3501.01 be amended and sections 5  
4507.60, 4507.61, and 4507.62 of the Revised Code be enacted to 6  
read as follows: 7

**Sec. 3501.01.** As used in the sections of the Revised Code 8  
relating to elections and political communications: 9

(A) "General election" means the election held on the 10  
first Tuesday after the first Monday in each November. 11

(B) "Regular municipal election" means the election held 12  
on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each 13  
odd-numbered year. 14

(C) "Regular state election" means the election held on 15  
the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each 16

even-numbered year. 17

(D) "Special election" means any election other than those 18  
elections defined in other divisions of this section. A special 19  
election may be held only on the first Tuesday after the first 20  
Monday in May or November, on the first Tuesday after the first 21  
Monday in August in accordance with section 3501.022 of the 22  
Revised Code, or on the day authorized by a particular municipal 23  
or county charter for the holding of a primary election, except 24  
that in any year in which a presidential primary election is 25  
held, no special election shall be held in May, except as 26  
authorized by a municipal or county charter, but may be held on 27  
the third Tuesday after the first Monday in March. 28

(E) (1) "Primary" or "primary election" means an election 29  
held for the purpose of nominating persons as candidates of 30  
political parties for election to offices, and for the purpose 31  
of electing persons as members of the controlling committees of 32  
political parties and as delegates and alternates to the 33  
conventions of political parties. Primary elections shall be 34  
held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May of each 35  
year except in years in which a presidential primary election is 36  
held. 37

(2) "Presidential primary election" means a primary 38  
election as defined by division (E) (1) of this section at which 39  
an election is held for the purpose of choosing delegates and 40  
alternates to the national conventions of the major political 41  
parties pursuant to section 3513.12 of the Revised Code. Unless 42  
otherwise specified, presidential primary elections are included 43  
in references to primary elections. In years in which a 44  
presidential primary election is held, all primary elections 45  
shall be held on the third Tuesday after the first Monday in 46

March except as otherwise authorized by a municipal or county charter. 47  
48

(F) "Political party" means any group of voters meeting 49  
the requirements set forth in section 3517.01 of the Revised 50  
Code for the formation and existence of a political party. 51

(1) "Major political party" means any political party 52  
organized under the laws of this state whose candidate for 53  
governor or nominees for presidential electors received not less 54  
than twenty per cent of the total vote cast for such office at 55  
the most recent regular state election. 56

(2) "Minor political party" means any political party 57  
organized under the laws of this state that meets either of the 58  
following requirements: 59

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this division, the 60  
political party's candidate for governor or nominees for 61  
presidential electors received less than twenty per cent but not 62  
less than three per cent of the total vote cast for such office 63  
at the most recent regular state election. A political party 64  
that meets the requirements of this division remains a political 65  
party for a period of four years after meeting those 66  
requirements. 67

(b) The political party has filed with the secretary of 68  
state, subsequent to its failure to meet the requirements of 69  
division (F) (2) (a) of this section, a petition that meets the 70  
requirements of section 3517.01 of the Revised Code. 71

A newly formed political party shall be known as a minor 72  
political party until the time of the first election for 73  
governor or president which occurs not less than twelve months 74  
subsequent to the formation of such party, after which election 75

the status of such party shall be determined by the vote for the 76  
office of governor or president. 77

(G) "Dominant party in a precinct" or "dominant political 78  
party in a precinct" means that political party whose candidate 79  
for election to the office of governor at the most recent 80  
regular state election at which a governor was elected received 81  
more votes than any other person received for election to that 82  
office in such precinct at such election. 83

(H) "Candidate" means any qualified person certified in 84  
accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code for placement 85  
on the official ballot of a primary, general, or special 86  
election to be held in this state, or any qualified person who 87  
claims to be a write-in candidate, or who knowingly assents to 88  
being represented as a write-in candidate by another at either a 89  
primary, general, or special election to be held in this state. 90

(I) "Independent candidate" means any candidate who claims 91  
not to be affiliated with a political party, and whose name has 92  
been certified on the office-type ballot at a general or special 93  
election through the filing of a statement of candidacy and 94  
nominating petition, as prescribed in section 3513.257 of the 95  
Revised Code. 96

(J) "Nonpartisan candidate" means any candidate whose name 97  
is required, pursuant to section 3505.04 of the Revised Code, to 98  
be listed on the nonpartisan ballot, including all candidates 99  
for judge of a municipal court, county court, or court of common 100  
pleas, for member of any board of education, for municipal or 101  
township offices in which primary elections are not held for 102  
nominating candidates by political parties, and for offices of 103  
municipal corporations having charters that provide for separate 104  
ballots for elections for these offices. 105

(K) "Party candidate" means any candidate who claims to be a member of a political party and who has been certified to appear on the office-type ballot at a general or special election as the nominee of a political party because the candidate has won the primary election of the candidate's party for the public office the candidate seeks, has been nominated under section 3517.012, or is selected by party committee in accordance with section 3513.31 of the Revised Code.

(L) "Officer of a political party" includes, but is not limited to, any member, elected or appointed, of a controlling committee, whether representing the territory of the state, a district therein, a county, township, a city, a ward, a precinct, or other territory, of a major or minor political party.

(M) "Question or issue" means any question or issue certified in accordance with the Revised Code for placement on an official ballot at a general or special election to be held in this state.

(N) "Elector" or "qualified elector" means a person having the qualifications provided by law to be entitled to vote.

(O) "Voter" means an elector who votes at an election.

(P) "Voting residence" means that place of residence of an elector which shall determine the precinct in which the elector may vote.

(Q) "Precinct" means a district within a county established by the board of elections of such county within which all qualified electors having a voting residence therein may vote at the same polling place.

(R) "Polling place" means that place provided for each

precinct at which the electors having a voting residence in such	135
precinct may vote.	136
(S) "Board" or "board of elections" means the board of	137
elections appointed in a county pursuant to section 3501.06 of	138
the Revised Code.	139
(T) "Political subdivision" means a county, township,	140
city, village, or school district.	141
(U) "Election officer" or "election official" means any of	142
the following:	143
(1) Secretary of state;	144
(2) Employees of the secretary of state serving the	145
division of elections in the capacity of attorney,	146
administrative officer, administrative assistant, elections	147
administrator, office manager, or clerical supervisor;	148
(3) Director of a board of elections;	149
(4) Deputy director of a board of elections;	150
(5) Member of a board of elections;	151
(6) Employees of a board of elections;	152
(7) Precinct election officials;	153
(8) Employees appointed by the boards of elections on a	154
temporary or part-time basis.	155
(V) "Acknowledgment notice" means a notice sent by a board	156
of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state,	157
informing a voter registration applicant or an applicant who	158
wishes to change the applicant's residence or name of the status	159
of the application; the information necessary to complete or	160
update the application, if any; and if the application is	161

complete, the precinct in which the applicant is to vote. 162

(W) "Confirmation notice" means a notice sent by a board 163  
of elections, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to 164  
a registered elector to confirm the registered elector's current 165  
address. 166

(X) "Designated agency" means an office or agency in the 167  
state that provides public assistance or that provides state- 168  
funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to 169  
persons with disabilities and that is required by the National 170  
Voter Registration Act of 1993 to implement a program designed 171  
and administered by the secretary of state for registering 172  
voters, or any other public or government office or agency that 173  
implements a program designed and administered by the secretary 174  
of state for registering voters, including the department of job 175  
and family services, the program administered under section 176  
3701.132 of the Revised Code by the department of health, the 177  
department of mental health and addiction services, the 178  
department of developmental disabilities, the opportunities for 179  
Ohioans with disabilities agency, and any other agency the 180  
secretary of state designates. "Designated agency" does not 181  
include public high schools and vocational schools, public 182  
libraries, or the office of a county treasurer. 183

(Y) "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" means the 184  
"National Voter Registration Act of 1993," 107 Stat. 77, 42 185  
U.S.C.A. 1973gg. 186

(Z) "Voting Rights Act of 1965" means the "Voting Rights 187  
Act of 1965," 79 Stat. 437, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973, as amended. 188

(AA) (1) "Photo identification" means one of the following 189  
documents that includes the individual's name and photograph and 190

is not expired:	191
(a) An Ohio driver's license, <u>or</u> state identification	192
card, <u>including a digital license or identification provided in</u>	193
<u>accordance with section 4507.62 of the Revised Code, or interim</u>	194
identification form issued by the registrar of motor vehicles or	195
a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or 4507. of the Revised	196
Code;	197
(b) A United States passport or passport card;	198
(c) A United States military identification card, Ohio	199
national guard identification card, or United States department	200
of veterans affairs identification card.	201
(2) A "copy" of an individual's photo identification means	202
images of both the front and back of a document described in	203
division (AA) (1) of this section, except that if the document is	204
a United States passport, a copy of the photo identification	205
means an image of the passport's identification page that	206
includes the individual's name, photograph, and other	207
identifying information and the passport's expiration date.	208
(BB) "Driver's license" means a license or permit issued	209
by the registrar or a deputy registrar under Chapter 4506. or	210
4507. of the Revised Code that authorizes an individual to	211
drive. "Driver's license" includes a driver's license,	212
commercial driver's license, probationary license, restricted	213
license, motorcycle operator's license, or temporary instruction	214
permit identification card. "Driver's license" does not include	215
a limited term license issued under section 4507.09 of the	216
Revised Code.	217
(CC) "State identification card" means a card issued by	218
the registrar or a deputy registrar under sections 4507.50 to	219



4507.52 of the Revised Code.	220
(DD) "Interim identification form" means the document	221
issued by the registrar or a deputy registrar to an applicant	222
for a driver's license or state identification card that	223
contains all of the information otherwise found on the license	224
or card and that an applicant may use as a form of	225
identification until the physical license or card arrives in the	226
mail.	227
<u>Sec. 4507.60. As used in sections 4507.60 to 4507.62 of</u>	228
<u>the Revised Code:</u>	229
<u>(A) "Digital license or identification" means a digital</u>	230
<u>copy of a person's physical driver's license or identification</u>	231
<u>card that is contained within a mobile application loaded onto a</u>	232
<u>person's electronic wireless communications device.</u>	233
<u>(B) "Electronic wireless communications device" has the</u>	234
<u>same meaning as in section 4509.103 of the Revised Code.</u>	235
<u>(C) "Licensee or cardholder" means a person who holds a</u>	236
<u>state-issued driver's license or identification card.</u>	237
<u>(D) "Mobile application entity" means the entity that</u>	238
<u>creates, owns, or manages the mobile application containing the</u>	239
<u>digital license or identification.</u>	240
<u>(E) "Peace officer" has the same meaning as in section</u>	241
<u>109.71 of the Revised Code.</u>	242
<u>(F) "Proof of identity" means the use of a driver's</u>	243
<u>license or identification card, either in physical or digital</u>	244
<u>form, in order to provide evidence of a person's identity,</u>	245
<u>including that person's name, age, date of birth, distinguishing</u>	246
<u>number, address, or photographic image.</u>	247

(G) "Selfie" means an image of a person that is taken by 248  
that person using a digital camera on the person's electronic 249  
wireless communications device. 250

**Sec. 4507.61.** The registrar of motor vehicles shall 251  
develop, implement, and administer a program that provides for 252  
the use of a digital license or identification by residents of 253  
this state. For purposes of the program, the registrar shall 254  
adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code 255  
that establish all of the following: 256

(A) A requirement that a person must have a valid physical 257  
driver's license or identification card in order to qualify for 258  
use of a digital license or identification; 259

(B) A mechanism by which the registrar shall receive data 260  
and images, including a selfie of a licensee or cardholder, from 261  
either the mobile application entity or the licensee or 262  
cardholder, for purposes of both of the following: 263

(1) Verifying the identity of the licensee or cardholder; 264

(2) Ensuring the validity of the driver's license or 265  
identification card. 266

(C) A verification process to determine that any data, 267  
images, or selfie submitted in accordance with division (B) of 268  
this section reasonably matches the data and digitalized 269  
photographic records of the department of public safety for that 270  
licensee or cardholder; 271

(D) Mechanisms to ensure that any information transmitted 272  
by the bureau of motor vehicles to either the mobile application 273  
or the digital driver's license or identification is encrypted 274  
and protected in accordance with reasonable security standards 275  
broadly available and cannot be intercepted while being 276

<u>transmitted from the bureau;</u>	277
<u>(E) Procedures that apply when a licensee or cardholder's driver's license or identification card is expired, suspended, or revoked;</u>	278
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<u>(F) Any other procedures or requirements that the registrar determines are necessary to implement and administer this section and ensure the general privacy, security, and safety of the data and images exchanged through the program.</u>	281
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<u>Notwithstanding any provision of section 121.95 of the Revised Code to the contrary, a regulatory restriction contained in a rule adopted under this section is not subject to sections 121.95 to 121.953 of the Revised Code.</u>	285
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<b>Sec. 4507.62.</b> <u>(A) At any time that a person is requested to provide proof of identity, including requests made by a state employee, a state official, or a peace officer, the person may provide the proof of identity through a digital license or identification, if all of the following apply:</u>	289
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<u>(1) The person's driver's license or identification card is valid and not expired, revoked, or suspended.</u>	294
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<u>(2) One of the following has occurred:</u>	296
<u>(a) For an Ohio driver's license or identification card, the registrar of motor vehicles has provided any identification verification services required by the mobile application entity prior to use of the digital license or identification in accordance with section 4507.61 of the Revised Code.</u>	297
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<u>(b) For a driver's license or identification card issued by another state, the state agency responsible for verifying the person's identity prior to use of the digital license or</u>	302
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identification has performed all identification verification 305  
services required by that state. 306

(3) The requestor of the proof of identity has the means 307  
and authorization to accept and validate the digital license or 308  
identification. 309

(B) (1) When a person utilizes an electronic wireless 310  
communications device to present proof of identity, only the 311  
evidence of that person's proof of identity displayed on the 312  
device shall be viewed by the requestor. No other content of the 313  
device shall be viewed for purposes of obtaining proof of 314  
identity or for any other purpose. 315

(2) When a person provides an electronic wireless 316  
communications device to the requestor of the proof of identity, 317  
the person assumes the risk of any resulting damage to the 318  
device unless the requestor purposely, knowingly, or recklessly 319  
commits an action that results in damage to the device. 320

**Section 2.** That existing section 3501.01 of the Revised 321  
Code is hereby repealed. 322