

**As Introduced**

**131st General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2015-2016**

**H. B. No. 41**

**Representative Stinziano**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Ashford, Bishoff, Boyd, Cera, Curtin, Driehaus,  
Gerberry, Kuhns, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Patterson, Phillips, Ramos, Reece,  
Rogers**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 3503.14 and to enact section 1  
3503.20 of the Revised Code to require the 2  
Secretary of State to create an online voter 3  
registration system. 4

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

**Section 1.** That section 3503.14 be amended and section 5  
3503.20 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 3503.14.** (A) The secretary of state shall prescribe 7  
the form and content of the registration, change of residence, 8  
and change of name forms used in this state. The forms shall 9  
meet the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 10  
1993 and shall include spaces for all of the following: 11

- (1) The voter's name; 12
- (2) The voter's address; 13
- (3) The current date; 14
- (4) The voter's date of birth; 15

(5) The voter to provide one or more of the following:	16
(a) The voter's driver's license number, if any;	17
(b) The last four digits of the voter's social security number, if any;	18 19
(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.	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
(6) The voter's signature.	27
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.	28 29 30 31 32
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.	33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41
(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	42 43 44

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

registering an applicant failed to sign the person's name or 71  
failed to name the employer who is employing that person to 72  
register the applicant as required under division (A) of this 73  
section. 74

(E) A voter registration application submitted online 75  
through the internet pursuant to section 3503.20 of the Revised 76  
Code is not required to contain a signature to be considered 77  
valid. The signature obtained under division (C)(1) of that 78  
section shall be considered the applicant's signature for all 79  
election and signature-matching purposes. 80

(F) As used in this section, "registering an applicant" 81  
includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter 82  
registration forms or to assist persons in completing or 83  
returning those forms. 84

**Sec. 3503.20.** (A) As used in this section, "applicant" 85  
means an individual who is qualified to register to vote under 86  
this chapter and who possesses a current and valid Ohio driver's 87  
license or identification card issued under Chapter 4507. of the 88  
Revised Code. 89

(B) The secretary of state, by rule, shall establish a 90  
secure online process for voter registration. The rules shall 91  
provide for an applicant to submit all of the following to the 92  
secretary of state online through the internet: 93

(1) An application to register as a first-time voter in 94  
Ohio or an application to change the applicant's name, address, 95  
or both, as set forth in the applicant's existing voter 96  
registration record; 97

(2) Information to establish that the applicant is 98  
qualified to register to vote under this chapter; 99

<u>(3) All of the following information:</u>	100
<u>(a) The applicant's name;</u>	101
<u>(b) The applicant's address;</u>	102
<u>(c) The applicant's date of birth;</u>	103
<u>(d) The last four digits of the applicant's social security number;</u>	104
<u>(e) The number of the applicant's current and valid Ohio driver's license or identification card issued under Chapter 4507. of the Revised Code.</u>	106
<u>(4) The applicant's attestation to the truth and accuracy of the information submitted in the online application under penalty of election falsification.</u>	109
<u>(C) The online voter registration application established under division (B) of this section shall include the following language:</u>	112
<u>"By clicking the box below, I affirm all of the following under penalty of election falsification:</u>	115
<u>(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.</u>	117
<u>(2) All of the information I have provided on this form is true and correct as of the date I am submitting this form.</u>	120
<u>(3) 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</u>	122

voter registration application as if I had signed this form 127  
personally." 128

In order to register to vote or update a voter 129  
registration under division (B) of this section, an applicant or 130  
elector shall be required to mark the box in the online voter 131  
registration application that appears in conjunction with the 132  
previous statement. 133

(D) When an applicant submits a voter registration 134  
application under this section, the secretary of state shall 135  
submit the completed application to the bureau of motor 136  
vehicles. The bureau of motor vehicles shall compare the 137  
information submitted by the applicant with the information 138  
maintained in the bureau of motor vehicles database that lists 139  
individuals who possess a current and valid Ohio driver's 140  
license or identification card issued under Chapter 4507. of the 141  
Revised Code. 142

(1) If the bureau of motor vehicles confirms that the 143  
applicant possesses a current and valid Ohio driver's license or 144  
identification card issued under Chapter 4507. of the Revised 145  
Code, the bureau of motor vehicles shall submit the completed 146  
application and the information compiled by the bureau of motor 147  
vehicles, including an electronic copy of the applicant's 148  
signature, to the secretary of state. The secretary of state 149  
shall validate and submit the completed application and the 150  
information compiled by the bureau of motor vehicles, including 151  
the electronic signature of the applicant, to the board of 152  
elections of the county in which the applicant resides. The 153  
board of elections shall register the applicant. The electronic 154  
signature shall be used as the applicant's signature on voter 155  
registration records, for all election and signature-matching 156

purposes. 157

(2) If the bureau of motor vehicles is unable to confirm 158  
that the applicant possesses a current and valid Ohio driver's 159  
license or identification card issued under Chapter 4507. of the 160  
Revised Code, the bureau of motor vehicles shall submit the 161  
completed application and the information that the bureau of 162  
motor vehicles is unable to confirm that the applicant possesses 163  
a current and valid Ohio driver's license or identification card 164  
to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall submit 165  
the completed application and the information that the bureau of 166  
motor vehicles is unable to confirm that the applicant possesses 167  
a current and valid Ohio driver's license or identification card 168  
to the board of elections of the county in which the applicant 169  
resides. The board of elections shall send a notice to the 170  
applicant that the application cannot be processed because the 171  
bureau of motor vehicles cannot confirm that the applicant 172  
possesses a current and valid Ohio driver's license or 173  
identification card. The board of elections shall send the 174  
notice to the applicant at the electronic mail address, if any, 175  
provided in the application, and by mail to the address provided 176  
in the application. 177

**Section 2.** That existing section 3503.14 of the Revised 178  
Code is hereby repealed. 179