

MODIFY ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

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Senate Bill 594 as passed by the Senate
Sponsor: Sen. Jeremy Moss
House Committee: Elections
Senate Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 11-7-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

(Enacted as Public Act 257 of 2023)

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 594 would amend the Michigan Election Law to modify the procedures under which an individual's identity is verified for the purposes of online voter registration. The bill would go into effect June 30, 2025.

The Michigan Secretary of State (SOS) maintains an online voter registration system that interacts with driver's license and official state personal ID card files to authenticate an individual's identity. The system must include the same information as provided on a mail-in voter registration form, notify the applicant that they must use the same address for license and voter registration purposes, transmit the application to the qualified voter file (QVF) with the applicant's consent, and utilize security measures as deemed appropriate by the SOS or the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget to prevent unauthorized access.

Currently, the system uses an applicant's driver's license or state ID card number, full name, date of birth, eye color, *and* the last four digits of their Social Security number (SSN) to verify their identity. Senate Bill 594 would instead require an individual to provide the last four digits of their SSN only if they do not provide a license or ID card number when submitting the application. For those applicants, the SOS would have to develop an identity verification process based on information from the SOS or the United States Social Security Administration that verifies the last four digits of their SSN, full name, and date of birth.

Signature uploads

If an applicant uses the last four digits of their SSN for identity verification purposes and the QVF does not contain their digitized signature, they would have to upload an image of their signature through the online voter registration system and assent to the use of the image as their signature for voter registration purposes. The SOS would have to develop a process for uploading the images and transmitting them to the QVF.

An already-registered voter who wishes to provide a new or additional signature could do so by uploading an image of their signature through the online registration system, as long as their identity is authenticated through the procedures described above before the image is accepted.

Eliminated provisions

The bill would remove provisions that currently prohibit an individual from using the online voter registration system if they ordered a duplicate of their license or ID card on the same day that they submitted an online voter registration application, updated their address for their license or ID card within the previous 10 days, or have an expired license or ID card. It would

also delete a provision that only allows an individual who is eligible to vote and who has a valid license or ID card (or an enhanced version of those IDs) to use the online system.

MCL 168.509ii

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill may result in additional costs to the state related to IT changes to the Department of State's existing online voter registration system and implementing cybersecurity measures recommended by the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget. Potential costs are unknown at this time.

The bill would have no fiscal impact on local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.