

HB 642 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Merideth

This bill prohibits anyone conviction of a felony or misdemeanor connected with the right of suffrage from voting. Currently individuals while confined under a sentence of imprisonment or while on probation or parole to vote are also prohibited from voting.

This bill repeals voter registration deadlines, allowing a person to register to vote before or on election day at a local election authority or polling location and allows for registering to vote via any state approved online voter registration system.

The bill allows voter registration solicitors to be paid. Any person who is compensated, other than by a government entity, soliciting more than 10 voter registration applications shall be registered with the Secretary of State and indicate whether he or she will be paid, and if so, by whom.

This bill allows for no-excuse absentee voting. Absentee ballot application forms and absentee voter statements are updated to reflect this change. No absentee ballot application shall be required to be notarized.

This bill allows absentee ballot applications to be made available on the website of the SOS and local election authorities. Election authorities are required to notify an absentee ballot applicant if the applicant fails to provide any necessary information required to process the application. All absentee ballots received by the election authority within seven days after an election are required to be counted if postmarked by the date of the election.

Subject to appropriation, the SOS shall establish an online absentee ballot tracking system that allows the voter to register for the tracking system to track the current status of the person's absentee ballot. The system must be easily accessible on the main page of the SOS website and provide updates to the voter, as specified in the bill.

This bill adds photo identification cards issued by a school or employer to the list of acceptable identification required to vote.

Subject to appropriation, a system of automatic voter registration shall be established by the SOS. The Department of Revenue shall periodically provide the SOS with such information as the Secretary deems necessary to conduct automatic voter registration. The SOS shall provide local election authorities with lists of non-binding

recommendations for inclusion on voter registration lists. Within two months of receipt of recommendations, local election authorities shall send a notice of potential automatic registration to potential voters. Such notice shall include a postage-paid postcard for the purpose of declining registration. If, after a period of one month, the postcard is not returned to the local election authority, the individual's name shall be added to the voter registration list. The SOS is authorized to promulgate all rules necessary for the administration of automatic voter registration.

This bill is similar to HB 2465 (2022).