

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 879

## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE APPELBAUM.

1992H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

### AN ACT

To repeal section 115.175, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the Missouri voter fraud prevention act, with penalty provisions.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 115.175, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 115.175 and 115.975, to read as follows:

115.175. Any person who knowingly or willfully gives any false information for the purpose of establishing his eligibility to register to vote or who conspires with another person for the purpose of encouraging his false registration or illegal vote, or who pays or offers to pay, accepts or offers to accept payment for registering to vote or for voting, or who otherwise willfully and fraudulently furnishes false information to a registration official for the purpose of causing a false or fictitious registration, or who registers to vote with the intention of voting more than once in the same election shall be guilty of a class one election offense. **Errors in the statewide voter registration system shall not amount to a class one election offense unless the individual knowingly or willfully provided false information that led to the error.**

**115.975. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Voter Fraud Prevention Act".**

**2. Notwithstanding any other manner of voter registration under this chapter, every eligible voter in the state shall be automatically registered to vote as provided in this section unless the voter indicates that he or she does not want to be registered to vote.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

7           3. (1) As used in this section, the term "source agency" shall mean the  
8 department of revenue, the department of social services, local housing authorities, the  
9 University of Missouri system, the department of corrections, the department of labor,  
10 the department of health and senior services, the bureau of vital records, local health  
11 departments, recorders of deeds, and any other agency designated by the secretary of  
12 state as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

13           (2) The secretary of state may designate additional state agencies to serve as  
14 sources for voter registration information. In designating additional agencies, the  
15 secretary of state shall consider:

16           (a) The likelihood that the agency's records contain information about a large  
17 number of eligible citizens;

18           (b) The extent to which the agency's records reflect eligible citizens who would  
19 not otherwise be registered to vote;

20           (c) The accuracy of personal identification information stored in the records;  
21 and

22           (d) Any additional factors the secretary of state determines are reasonably  
23 related to achieving automatic voter registration.

24           4. (1) The following actions shall result in an individual's automatic voter  
25 registration or an update to the information of an already registered voter if the  
26 individual otherwise meets the requirements to register to vote:

27           (a) Completing an application for a new or renewed driver's license, nondriver  
28 identification card, driver's permit, or certification of supervised driving that is not a  
29 request for duplication of a lost or stolen card with the department of revenue or  
30 notifying the department in writing of a change in his or her name or mailing address;

31           (b) Completing an application for services or renewal of services or change of  
32 address relating to services from the department of social services;

33           (c) Completing an application for services or renewal of services or change of  
34 address relating to services from a local housing authority;

35           (d) Registering for classes at an institution of the University of Missouri system;

36           (e) Completing an application for unemployment benefits;

37           (f) Filing a death certificate with the bureau of vital records or local health  
38 department;

39           (g) Submitting a form by the department of corrections to the secretary of state  
40 that confirms an individual has been discharged from probation, parole, or  
41 incarceration; the discharge is nonconditional; and the individual's place of residence  
42 upon release; or

43           (h) Completing an application with a source agency, as that term is defined in  
44 subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section.

45           (2) When a source agency assists an individual with any of the activities in  
46 paragraphs (a) to (h) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the source agency shall, at  
47 least monthly, provide the following information for each individual to the secretary of  
48 state:

49           (a) Full name;

50           (b) Mailing and residential addresses;

51           (c) Date of birth;

52           (d) Proof of citizenship or attestation of eligibility;

53           (e) Driver's license or nondriver identification card number or the last four  
54 numbers of the individual's Social Security number; and

55           (f) An image of the individual's signature.

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57 In the event that the source agency does not have or does not provide an image of the  
58 individual's signature, the secretary of state shall develop a method for indicating that  
59 the voter is required to provide his or her signature and an acceptable form of voter  
60 identification when applying for an absentee ballot or before voting at a polling place on  
61 election day.

62           (3) Upon receipt of the information in subdivision (2) of this subsection, the  
63 secretary of state shall identify individuals who are eligible to register to vote but are not  
64 registered and shall promptly send each individual a written notice with the following  
65 information:

66           (a) An explanation that voter registration is voluntary, but if the individual does  
67 not expressly decline registration, he or she will be registered to vote;

68           (b) A statement offering the opportunity to decline to register to vote, that  
69 registration shall be declined within forty-five days after the date that the notice is  
70 postmarked, and that the decision to decline voter registration shall remain  
71 confidential;

72           (c) The voter eligibility requirements and a statement that the individual shall  
73 decline registration if he or she does not satisfy the requirements;

74           (d) Penalties for submission of false information; and

75           (e) Instructions for correcting incorrect information.

76

77 The written notice shall include a form that may be signed and returned in a prepaid  
78 envelope to decline voter registration. If an individual fails to decline voter registration

79 within forty-five days from the date the notice is postmarked, the individual shall be  
80 registered to vote.

81       5. The secretary of state shall develop a form that source agencies may utilize to  
82 assist in collecting the information required under paragraphs (a) through (f) of  
83 subdivision (2) of subsection 4 of this section. The form shall contain the following  
84 information:

85       (1) An explanation that voter registration is voluntary but if the individual does  
86 not expressly decline registration, he or she will be registered to vote;

87       (2) A statement offering the opportunity to decline to register to vote, the method  
88 by which the individual may decline registration, and a statement that the decision to  
89 decline voter registration shall remain confidential;

90       (3) The voter eligibility requirements and a statement that the individual  
91 declines registration if he or she does not satisfy the requirements;

92       (4) Penalties for submission of false information; and

93       (5) A statement that the benefits or services sought from the source agency shall  
94 not be affected by the individual's decision to register or decline to register to vote.

95       6. The secretary of state and source agencies shall collaborate on the best  
96 methods for complying with the requirements of this section. The secretary of state  
97 shall make rules regarding the implementation of this section and shall be responsible  
98 for providing training programs for source agencies. All source agencies shall comply  
99 with rules established by the secretary of state to assist with the implementation of  
100 automatic voter registration.

101       7. The secretary of state may promulgate rules to assist in the implementation of  
102 this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that  
103 is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it  
104 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable,  
105 section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers  
106 vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the  
107 effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,  
108 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August  
109 28, 2025, shall be invalid and void.

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