

## CHAPTER 2016-23

### House Bill No. 541

An act relating to addresses of legal residence; amending s. 97.021, F.S.; defining the term “address of legal residence”; amending ss. 97.053 and 97.057, F.S.; requiring a voter registration application to include the applicant’s address of legal residence and certain additional distinguishing information; specifying that an applicant’s failure to include such distinguishing information on a voter registration application does not affect his or her qualifications to register or vote or cast a ballot; conforming a provision; amending s. 98.015, F.S.; providing that a list of valid addresses maintained by a supervisor of elections include certain additional distinguishing information; providing duties of the supervisor relating to voter registration applications; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (3) through (44) of section 97.021, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) through (45), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to that section to read:

97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

(3) “Address of legal residence” means the legal residential address of the elector and includes all information necessary to differentiate one residence from another, including, but not limited to, a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 97.053, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.—

(5)(a) A voter registration application is complete if it contains the following information necessary to establish the applicant’s eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041, including:

1. The applicant’s name.

2. The applicant’s address of legal residence, including a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier, if appropriate address. Failure to include a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room or other identifier on a voter registration application does not impact a voter’s eligibility to register to vote or cast a ballot, and such an omission may not serve as the basis for a challenge to a voter’s eligibility or reason to not count a ballot.

3. The applicant’s date of birth.

4. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant is a citizen of the United States.

5.a. The applicant’s current and valid Florida driver license number or the identification number from a Florida identification card issued under s. 322.051, or

b. If the applicant has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver license or a Florida identification card, the last four digits of the applicant’s social security number.

In case an applicant has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver license, Florida identification card, or social security number, the applicant shall affirm this fact in the manner prescribed in the uniform statewide voter registration application.

6. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, has had his or her civil rights restored.

7. A mark in the checkbox affirming that the applicant has not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or that, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote restored.

8. The original signature or a digital signature transmitted by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles of the applicant swearing or affirming under the penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011 that the information contained in the registration application is true and subscribing to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the State Constitution and s. 97.051.

Section 3. Subsection (10) of section 97.057, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

(10) The department shall provide the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles with an electronic database of street addresses valid for use as the ~~address of legal residence~~ address as required in s. 97.053(5). The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall compare the address provided by the applicant against the database of valid street addresses. If the address provided by the applicant does not match a valid street address in the database, the applicant will be asked to verify the address provided. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall not reject any application for voter registration for which a valid match cannot be made.

Section 4. Subsection (12) of section 98.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

98.015 Supervisor of elections; election, tenure of office, compensation, custody of registration-related documents, office hours, successor, seal; appointment of deputy supervisors; duties.—

(12) Each supervisor shall maintain a list of valid residential street addresses for purposes of verifying the legal addresses of voters residing in the supervisor’s county. To the maximum extent practicable, the list shall include information necessary to differentiate one residence from another, including, but not limited to, a distinguishing apartment, suite, lot, room, or dormitory room number or other identifier. If a voter registration application does not include information necessary to differentiate one residence from another, the supervisor shall make all reasonable efforts to obtain such information in order to maintain the list of valid residential street addresses. The supervisor shall make all reasonable efforts to coordinate with county 911 service providers, property appraisers, the United States Postal Service, or other agencies as necessary to ensure the continued accuracy of such list. The supervisor shall provide the list of valid residential addresses to the statewide voter registration system in the manner and frequency specified by rule of the department.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor March 8, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 8, 2016.