



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments*

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Sub. H.B. 159

129th General Assembly

(Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs)

Requires all electors to provide a photo identification, a nonphoto state identification card, a Social Security Number, a driver's license number, or a state identification card number to vote, regardless of whether the person is voting in person or by mail, instead of permitting absent voters to provide a bank statement, paycheck, or other document, as allowed under the House-passed version of the bill.¹

Requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to promulgate rules to permit an individual with a religious objection to being photographed to receive a nonphoto state identification card, and permits that card to be used in lieu of photo identification.²

Permits an individual who does not have photo identification to receive a free state identification card not more than once every four years, instead of allowing an indigent person to receive a free photo identification when needed.³

Eliminates the provision of current law allowing an individual who does not have identification to execute an affirmation to that effect, vote a provisional ballot, and have that ballot counted.

Permits an individual who does not have or cannot provide identification to vote a provisional ballot and requires such a person to either (1) provide identification to the board of elections before the close of the polls or (2) provide the individual's Social Security Number, driver's license number, or state identification card number, which must be verified with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in order for that person's provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted.⁴

¹ R.C. 3501.01, 3505.18, 3509.03, 3509.031, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3511.02, 3511.05, and 3511.09.

² R.C. 3501.01 and 4507.50.

³ R.C. 4507.50.

⁴ R.C. 3505.18, 3505.181, and 3505.183.

* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.

Requires electors who use their Social Security numbers on registrations, absent voter's ballots, and other election documents to provide all nine digits of their Social Security numbers, instead of the last four digits, as required by current law.⁵

Permits an individual to use the individual's state identification card number as identification on registrations, absent voter's ballots, and other election documents.

Requires a statement to be included on an affirmation that an elector has a religious objection to being photographed acknowledging that a person who falsely signs the statement may be subject to criminal prosecution and associated penalties.⁶

Requires the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to promulgate rules that permit individuals with developmental disabilities to apply for, and receive, a state identification card, at a county board of developmental disabilities, at regular intervals.⁷

Specifies that persons who receive their ballots in person from two election officials in a nursing home, hospital, or other facility, or persons in those facilities who vote with assistance, are considered to have voted an absent voter's ballot by mail, for the purpose of the law governing voter identification.⁸

Specifies that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the provisions of this act prevail over any conflicting provisions of any other legislation, including H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly, that are enacted prior to July 1, 2011, for purpose of determining the types of identification acceptable for voting under the Election Law.⁹

Incorporates sections of law, as amended by H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly, into the bill for the purpose of providing consistency between the legislation, which inclusion incorporates H.B. 194 provisions on provisional balloting, maintenance of the statewide voter registration database, and absent voting into H.B. 159.

⁵ R.C. 3503.14, 3503.19, 3503.28, 3509.03, 3509.031, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3511.02, and 3511.05.

⁶ R.C. 3505.18.

⁷ R.C. 4507.50.

⁸ R.C. 3509.08.

⁹ Section 3 of the bill.