

SENATE BILL No. 63

AN ACT concerning elections; relating to the registration of voters; amending K.S.A. 25-2309 and 25-2320 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 25-2309 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2309. (a) Any person may apply in person, by mail, through a voter registration agency, or by other delivery to a county election officer to be registered. Such application shall be made on: (1) A form approved by the secretary of state, which shall be provided by a county election officer or chief state election official upon request in person, by telephone or in writing; or (2) the mail voter registration application prescribed by the federal election commission. Such application shall be signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury and shall contain the original signature of the applicant or the computerized, electronic or digitized transmitted signature of the applicant.

(b) Applications made under this section shall give voter eligibility requirements and such information as is necessary to identify the applicant and to determine the qualifications of the applicant as an elector and the facts authorizing such person to be registered, including, but not limited to, the following data:

- (1) Name;
- (2) place of residence, including specific address or location, and mailing address if the residence address is not a permissible postal address;
- (3) date of birth;
- (4) sex;
- (5) *the last four digits of the person's social security number;*
- ~~(5)~~ (6) telephone number, if available;
- ~~(6)~~ (7) naturalization data (if applicable);
- ~~(7)~~ (8) if applicant has previously registered or voted elsewhere, residence at time of last registration or voting;
- ~~(8)~~ (9) when present residence established;
- ~~(9)~~ (10) name under which applicant last registered or voted, if different from present name;
- ~~(10)~~ (11) an attestation that the applicant meets each eligibility requirement;
- ~~(11)~~ (12) a statement that the penalty for submission of a false voter registration application is a maximum presumptive sentence of 17 months in prison;
- ~~(12)~~ (13) a statement that, if an applicant declines to register to vote, the fact that the applicant has declined to register will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes;
- ~~(13)~~ (14) a statement that if an applicant does register to vote, the office to which a voter registration application is submitted will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes; and
- ~~(14)~~ (15) political party affiliation declaration, if any. An applicant's failure to make a declaration will result in the applicant being registered as an unaffiliated voter.

If the application discloses any previous registration in any other county or state, as indicated by paragraph ~~(7)~~ ~~or (9)~~ (8) or (10), or otherwise, the county election officer shall upon the registration of the applicant, give notice to the election official of the place of former registration, notifying such official of applicant's present residence and registration, and authorizing cancellation of such former registration.

(c) Any person who applies for registration through a voter registration agency shall be provided with, in addition to the application under subsection (b), a form which includes:

- (1) The question "If you are not registered to vote where you live now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today?";
- (2) a statement that if the applicant declines to register to vote, this decision will remain confidential and be used only for voter registration purposes;
- (3) a statement that if the applicant does register to vote, information regarding the office to which the application was submitted will remain confidential and be used only for voter registration purposes; and
- (4) if the agency provides public assistance, (i) the statement "Applying to register or declining to register to vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided by this agency.";
- (ii) boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the applicant

would like to register or declines to register to vote, together with the statement “IF YOU DO NOT CHECK EITHER BOX, YOU WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT THIS TIME.”;

(iii) the statement “If you would like help in filling out the voter registration application form, we will help you. The decision whether to seek or accept help is yours. You may fill out the application form in private.”; and

(iv) the statement “If you believe that someone has interfered with your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political preference, you may file a complaint with the Kansas Secretary of State.”

(d) If any person, in writing, declines to register to vote, the voter registration agency shall maintain the form prescribed by subsection (c).

(e) A voter registration agency shall transmit the completed registration application to the county election officer not later than five days after the date of acceptance. Upon receipt of an application for registration, the county election officer shall send, by nonforwardable mail, a notice of disposition of the application to the applicant at the postal delivery address shown on the application. If a notice of disposition is returned as undeliverable, a confirmation mailing prescribed by K.S.A. 25-2316c, and amendments thereto, shall occur.

(f) If an application is received while registration is closed, such application shall be considered to have been received on the next following day during which registration is open.

(g) A person who completes an application for voter registration shall be considered a registered voter when the county election officer adds the applicant's name to the county voter registration list.

(h) Any registered voter whose residence address is not a permissible postal delivery address shall designate a postal address for registration records. When a county election officer has reason to believe that a voter's registration residence is not a permissible postal delivery address, the county election officer shall attempt to determine a proper mailing address for the voter.

(i) *No application for voter registration shall be made available for public inspection or copying unless the information required by paragraph (5) of subsection (b) has been removed or otherwise rendered unreadable.*

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-2320 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2320. (a) The county election officer shall allow access to any person at any time during regular business hours, under supervision of the county election officer for the purpose of examining the voter registration books. Any person may make a written request for a copy of the registration books at any time except on any election day. The election officer is hereby directed to provide one or more copies which are accurate insofar as practicable of such books to the person so requesting. The election officer shall provide such copies to the person within 10 days following the request if so requested. The expense of making such copies shall be paid by the person requesting them. The cost of copies shall be established by the county election officer at a price which is not more than the actual cost and shall be set uniformly in order that the price therefor shall be the same for all persons requesting identical copies.

(b) *No voter registration record shall be made available for public inspection or copying unless the individual's social security number, or any part thereof, has been removed or otherwise been rendered unreadable.*

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 25-2309 and 25-2320 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the SENATE, and passed that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

Passed the HOUSE _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

APPROVED _____

Governor.