

House Bill 942

By: Representatives Gordon of the 163rd, Smith of the 125th, Abrams of the 89th, Stephens of the 165th, Scott of the 76th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elections and primaries generally, so as to provide for online voter registration; to provide
3 for online updating of voter registration information; to provide for procedures and
4 requirements; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Online Voter Registration Act of 2014."

9 **SECTION 2.**

10 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elections and
11 primaries generally, is amended by repealing Code Section 21-2-221.2, relating to voter
12 registration application for electronic voter registration, and by enacting a new Code Section
13 21-2-221.2 to read as follows:

14 "21-2-221.2.

15 (a) The Secretary of State shall ensure that the following services are available to the
16 public at any time on the official website of the Secretary of State:

17 (1) Online application for voter registration, the content of which shall be equivalent to
18 the form provided for in Code Section 21-2-219 for use in designated voter registration
19 agencies;

20 (2) Online assistance to those applying to register to vote;

21 (3) Online completion and submission by applicants of the voter registration application,
22 including the electronic signature of the applicant pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code
23 section; and

24 (4) Online receipt of completed voter registration applications.

- 25 (b) An application submitted under this Code section shall be deemed submitted on the
26 date it is sent electronically to the Secretary of State.
- 27 (c) An applicant for voter registration under this Code section may provide an electronic
28 signature by:
- 29 (1) Executing a computerized mark in the signature field as instructed on the online
30 application; or
- 31 (2) On and after July 1, 2015, submitting an electronic copy of the applicant's
32 handwritten signature through electronic means which the Secretary of State shall accept.
- 33 (d) Upon submission of a completed voter registration application under this Code section,
34 the official website of the Secretary of State shall generate an immediate electronic
35 confirmation on the website that the application has been received with instructions as to
36 how the applicant may check the status of the application thereafter.
- 37 (e) The appropriate state and local voter registration officials shall accept an online voter
38 registration application submitted under this Code section and shall ensure that the
39 individual is registered to vote in this state if:
- 40 (1) The individual meets the same voter registration eligibility requirements applicable
41 to individuals who register to vote by mail; and
- 42 (2) The individual provides an electronic signature in accordance with subsection (c) of
43 this Code section.
- 44 (f) The appropriate state or local voter registration official shall inform the applicant for
45 voter registration of the disposition of the application by regular mail and, at the option of
46 the applicant, e-mail.
- 47 (g) Upon voting for the first time in this state after registering under this Code section, the
48 voter shall supply a handwritten signature:
- 49 (1) At the polling place when the voter appears there to vote; or
50 (2) If the voter wishes to vote by absentee ballot, on a form prescribed by the Secretary
51 of State and provided by the registrar or absentee ballot clerk to be returned with the
52 absentee ballot, provided that the voter submitted an electronic copy of his or her
53 handwritten signature pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of this Code section.
- 54 (h) No legal distinction shall be made between registration under this Code section and
55 in-person, mail, or other registration methods allowed under this chapter.
- 56 (i) The Secretary of State shall ensure that any legally registered voter may at any time
57 update the voter's registration information, including his or her address, online through the
58 official website of the Secretary of State.
- 59 (j) The Secretary of State or the appropriate registration official shall revise any
60 information on the computerized list to reflect an update in information by a voter pursuant

61 to subsection (i) at any time up to and including seven days before the date of the next election.
62 (k) Upon the online submission of updated voter registration information under this Code
63 section, the appropriate registration official shall send a notice confirming receipt of the
64 updated information by regular mail and, at the option of the voter, e-mail.
65 (l) The Secretary of State shall establish appropriate technological security measures, such
66 as the use of a unique identifier for each registrant, to prevent unauthorized persons from
67 altering a registered voter's registration information and to ensure the accuracy and
68 integrity of voter registration applications submitted electronically pursuant to this Code
69 section."

70 **SECTION 2.**

71 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.