

LC 313
2023 Regular Session
16500-035
10/18/22 (DRG/ps)

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Extends automatic voter registration to Oregon Health Authority in certain circumstances.

Establishes pilot program at Powder River Correctional Facility to require that each adult in custody be granted updated state identification card and voter registration upon release. Requires program to begin on January 1, 2027, and requires Secretary of State to submit report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to elections by September 15, 2028. Sunsets program on January 1, 2029.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to voter registration; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 247.002, 247.012, 247.014, 247.019, 247.171 and 247.292.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2023 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 247.

SECTION 2. (1)(a) Subject to compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations, the Secretary of State shall by rule establish a schedule by which the Oregon Health Authority shall provide to the secretary electronic records, derived from information provided to the Oregon Health Plan, containing the legal name, age, residence and citizenship information for, and, if any, the electronic signature of, each person who the authority deems may be eligible to be a qualified elector under Article II, section 2, of the Oregon Constitution.

(b) The secretary may establish by rule, after consultation with the authority, what electronic records establish whether a person may be

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 eligible to be a qualified elector for purposes of this subsection.

2 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, the authority
3 may not provide to the secretary any electronic records demonstrating
4 that a person is not a citizen of the United States.

5 (2) When establishing a schedule under subsection (1) of this sec-
6 tion, the secretary may adopt rules governing the format and fre-
7 quency of data transfer. Any rules adopted under this subsection:

8 (a) Are subject to input and public comment, including comment
9 from the authority; and

10 (b) May come into effect only after the secretary and authority test
11 and verify the data transfer processes.

12 (3)(a) The secretary:

13 (A) Shall by rule develop a process to obtain an electronic signature
14 from the Department of Transportation for each person described in
15 subsection (1) of this section for whom the authority does not provide
16 an electronic signature under this section; and

17 (B) May use any electronic signature that is obtained under sub-
18 paragraph (A) of this paragraph or that is otherwise in the secretary's
19 possession, for the purpose of registering electors to vote under this
20 section.

21 (b) The department may not provide to the secretary an electronic
22 signature of a person under this subsection if the department's records
23 demonstrate that the person is not a citizen of the United States.

24 (4) Upon receiving the electronic record for, and electronic signa-
25 ture of, a person described in subsection (1) of this section, the secre-
26 tary shall provide the information to the county clerk of the county
27 in which the person may be registered as an elector. The secretary or
28 county clerk shall notify each person of the process to:

29 (a) Decline being registered as an elector.

30 (b) Adopt a political party affiliation.

31 (5) If a person notified under subsection (4) of this section does not

1 decline to be registered as an elector within 21 calendar days after the
2 secretary or county clerk issues the notification, the person's elec-
3 tronic record and electronic signature submitted to the county clerk
4 under subsection (4) of this section will constitute a completed regis-
5 tration card for the person for purposes of this chapter. The person
6 shall be registered to vote if the county clerk determines that the
7 person is qualified to vote under Article II, section 2, of the Oregon
8 Constitution, and the person is not already registered to vote.

9 (6) A county clerk may not send a ballot to, or add to an elector
10 registration list, a person who is determined under subsection (5) of
11 this section to be qualified to vote, and who is not already registered
12 to vote, until at least 21 calendar days after the secretary or county
13 clerk provided notification to the person as described in subsection (4)
14 of this section.

15 (7) The transfer of personal information and data by the authority
16 or department to the secretary under this section is limited to the in-
17 formation and data that is necessary to register electors. Information
18 and data transferred to the secretary under this section may be used
19 only for the purpose of registering electors.

20 (8) The secretary shall adopt rules required to implement this sec-
21 tion.

22 (9) As used in this section, "electronic signature" means an elec-
23 tronic form of a handwritten signature that can be verified, in the
24 manner described in ORS 254.470 (11), for the purpose of tallying bal-
25 lots.

26 **SECTION 3.** ORS 247.002 is amended to read:

27 247.002. As used in this chapter:

28 (1) "County clerk" means the county clerk or the county official in charge
29 of elections.

30 (2) "Elector" means an individual qualified to vote under Article II, sec-
31 tion 2, Oregon Constitution.

(3) “Registration card” means:

(a) A state voter registration card approved by the Secretary of State under ORS 247.171[.];

(b) A federal voter registration application form prescribed by the Federal Election Commission pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-31) [*or*];

(c) An electronic record containing an individual’s legal name, age, residence and citizenship information and electronic signature submitted to the Department of Transportation in the manner described in ORS 247.017; **or**

(d) An electronic record containing an individual’s legal name, age, residence and citizenship information submitted to the Oregon Health Authority in the manner described in section 2 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 4. ORS 247.012 is amended to read:

247.012. (1) A qualified person may register to vote or update a registration to vote by:

(a) Delivering by mail, having a person deliver or otherwise delivering a completed registration card to any county clerk, the Secretary of State, any office of the Department of Transportation or any designated voter registration agency as described in ORS 247.208;

(b) Personally delivering, or having a person deliver, the card to an official designated by a county clerk under subsection (7) of this section;

(c) Submitting the person’s legal name, age, residence and citizenship information and electronic signature to the Department of Transportation; [*or*]

(d) Submitting the person’s legal name, age, residence and citizenship information to the Oregon Health Authority for use in the Oregon Health Plan and submitting the person’s electronic signature to the Oregon Health Authority, the Department of Transportation or the Secretary of State; or

[(*d*)] (e) Completing a registration card using the electronic voter registration system described in ORS 247.019.

(2) If a registration card is mailed or delivered to:

(a) Any person other than a county clerk or the Secretary of State, the person shall forward the card to a county clerk or the Secretary of State not later than the fifth day after receiving the card; or

(b) The Secretary of State or a county clerk for a county other than the county in which the person applying for registration resides, the Secretary of State or county clerk shall forward the card to the county clerk for the county in which the person resides not later than the fifth day after receiving the card.

(3) Registration of a qualified person occurs:

(a) When a legible, accurate and complete registration card is received in the office of any county clerk, the Office of the Secretary of State, an office of the Department of Transportation, a designated voter registration agency under ORS 247.208 or at a location designated by a county clerk under subsection (7) of this section;

(b) On the date a registration card is postmarked if the card is received after the 21st day immediately preceding an election but is postmarked not later than the 21st day immediately preceding the election and is addressed to an office of any county clerk, the Office of the Secretary of State, an office of the Department of Transportation or any designated voter registration agency as described in ORS 247.208; or

(c) In the case of a registration card missing a date of birth, containing an incomplete date of birth or containing an unintentional scrivener's error that is supplied or corrected as described in subsection (4) or (6) of this section, on the date that registration would have occurred if the registration card had not been missing the date of birth, contained an incomplete date of birth or contained the scrivener's error.

(4)(a) Except as provided in ORS 247.125, if a registration card is legible, accurate and contains, at a minimum, the registrant's name, residence address, date of birth and signature, the county clerk shall register the person.

(b) If the information required under paragraph (a) of this subsection is

missing from the registration card or the date of birth is incomplete, the county clerk shall attempt to obtain the missing or incomplete information from all sources available to the county clerk, including but not limited to current and previous addresses and phone numbers of the registrant. The county clerk may also supply the registrant's date of birth from any previous registration of the registrant. If the missing or incomplete information cannot be obtained from sources available to the county clerk, the county clerk shall use reasonable efforts to contact the registrant by phone, mail and electronic mail to obtain the missing or incomplete information.

(5) If a registration card meets the requirements of subsection (4) of this section but is missing an indication of political party affiliation, the registrant shall be considered not affiliated with any political party. This subsection does not apply if an elector is updating a registration.

(6) If a registration card contains an unintentional scrivener's error, the county clerk may attempt to contact the person to correct the error.

(7) A county clerk may appoint officials to accept registration of persons at designated locations. The appointments and locations shall be in writing and filed in the office of the county clerk. The county clerk shall be responsible for the performance of duties by those appointed.

(8) A registration card received and accepted under this section shall be considered an active registration.

(9) A registration may be updated at any time.

SECTION 5. ORS 247.292 is amended to read:

247.292. (1) A county clerk shall update the registration of an elector in the county upon receiving evidence from:

(a) The elector indicating a residence or mailing address that is different from the residence or mailing address for the elector as contained in the records of the county clerk;

(b) The United States Postal Service indicating a residence address that is different from the residence address for the elector as contained in the records of the county clerk; or

(c) The Secretary of State as provided in ORS 247.017 or 247.295 **or section 2 of this 2023 Act.**

(2) When a county clerk updates the registration of an elector under subsection (1) of this section, the clerk shall send a new voter notification card by nonforwardable mail to the elector as provided in ORS 247.181. The clerk shall include a notice stating that if the residence address or mailing address is not correct, the elector must notify the clerk.

(3) An elector is not disqualified from voting due to any error relating to an update of registration made under this section.

SECTION 6. ORS 247.014 is amended to read:

247.014. In implementing ORS 247.012, 247.017 and 247.171 **and section 2 of this 2023 Act**, the Department of Transportation **and the Oregon Health Authority** shall take steps reasonably necessary to allow transfer of voter registration information by electronic or magnetic medium.

SECTION 7. ORS 247.171 is amended to read:

247.171. (1) Except as provided in this subsection, the Secretary of State shall design, prepare and distribute state voter registration cards. The Secretary of State shall also distribute federal registration cards. Any person may apply in writing to the Secretary of State for permission to print, copy or otherwise prepare and distribute the registration cards designed by the Secretary of State. The secretary may revoke any permission granted under this subsection at any time. All registration cards shall be distributed to the public without charge.

(2) The Secretary of State shall approve any voter registration application form developed for use by any agency designated as a voter registration agency under ORS 247.208.

(3) Each voter registration card designed or approved by the Secretary of State shall describe the penalties for knowingly supplying false information on the registration card and shall contain space for a person to provide the following information:

(a) Full name;

(b) Residence address, mailing address or any other information necessary to locate the residence of the person offering to register to vote;

(c) The name of the political party with which the person is affiliated, if any;

(d) Date of birth;

(e) An indication that the person is a citizen of the United States; and

(f) A signature attesting, **except for an electronic signature obtained as provided under section 2 of this 2023 Act**, to the fact that the person is qualified to be an elector.

(4) Any form containing a voter registration card may also include space for a person to provide:

(a) A telephone number where the person may be contacted; and

(b) If previously registered to vote in this state, the name then supplied by the person and the county and, if known, the address of previous registration.

(5) A person shall not supply any information under subsection (3) or (4) of this section knowing it to be false.

(6) A county clerk or other person accepting registration cards shall not request any information unless it is authorized by state or federal law.

(7) **Except as provided in section 2 of this 2023 Act**, a person shall attest to the information supplied on the voter registration card by signing the completed registration card.

(8) **Except as provided in subsection (7) of this section**, any completed and signed registration card described in subsection (3) of this section shall be the official registration card of the elector.

SECTION 8. ORS 247.019, as amended by section 1, chapter 19, Oregon Laws 2022, is amended to read:

247.019. (1) The Secretary of State by rule shall adopt an electronic voter registration system to be used by qualified persons who have a valid:

(a) Oregon driver license, as defined in ORS 801.245;

(b) Oregon driver permit, as defined in ORS 801.250;

(c) State identification card, issued under ORS 807.400; or

(d) Social Security number.

(2)(a) The electronic voter registration system shall:

(A) Require a person registering to vote under subsection (1)(d) of this section to enter only the final four digits of the person's valid Social Security number;

(B) Allow a person [*registering to vote under subsection (1)(d) of this section*] to electronically submit an image of the person's signature; and

(C) Allow a qualified person to complete and deliver a registration card electronically.

(b) A registration card delivered under this section is considered delivered to the Secretary of State for purposes of this chapter.

(3) A person who completes a registration card electronically under this section consents to the use of the person's driver license, driver permit or state identification card signature, or an electronically submitted image of the person's signature, for voter registration purposes.

(4) If available, the Department of Transportation shall provide to the Secretary of State a digital copy of the driver license, driver permit or state identification card signature of each person who completes a registration card under this section.

(5) The electronic voter registration system may also include an application programming interface to allow third-party organizations to securely submit registration cards electronically on behalf of individuals. In order to submit registration cards under this subsection, a third-party organization must be approved as a voter registration organization under a process designed by the Secretary of State by rule.

SECTION 9. (1) The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Department of Corrections and the Department of Transportation, shall establish a pilot program for the Department of Transportation to provide an updated identification card to each adult in custody who is serving a sentence at the Powder River Correctional Facility upon

1 the release of the individual from the facility.

2 (2) The secretary shall coordinate with the county clerks, the Pow-
3 der River Correctional Facility and the Department of Transportation
4 on:

5 (a) The process for issuing identification cards under this section;
6 and

7 (b) Ensuring that the information contained in each identification
8 card issued under this section is used in the manner described in ORS
9 chapter 247 to update the voter registration information of each indi-
10 vidual who receives an identification card under this section.

11 (3) The secretary, in consultation with the Department of Cor-
12 rections and the Department of Transportation, may adopt rules to
13 implement this section.

14 (4) No later than September 15, 2028, the secretary, in consultation
15 with the county clerks, the Department of Corrections and the De-
16 partment of Transportation, shall evaluate the effectiveness of the
17 program described in this section and shall report the results of the
18 analysis to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related
19 to elections.

20 (5) As used in this section:

21 (a) “Adult in custody” has the meaning given that term in ORS
22 30.642.

23 (b) “Identification card” means a card issued under ORS 807.400.

24 SECTION 10. Section 9 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 1,
25 2029.

26 SECTION 11. (1) Section 2 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to
27 ORS 247.002, 247.012, 247.014, 247.019, 247.171 and 247.292 by sections 3
28 to 8 of this 2023 Act become operative on June 1, 2026.

29 (2) The Secretary of State, the Oregon Health Authority, the De-
30 partment of Transportation and the county clerks may take any action
31 before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that

1 is necessary for the Secretary of State, the Oregon Health Authority,
2 the Department of Transportation and the county clerks to exercise,
3 on and after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this sec-
4 tion, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the Secretary
5 of State, the Oregon Health Authority, the Department of Transpor-
6 tation and the county clerks by section 2 of this 2023 Act and the
7 amendments to ORS 247.002, 247.012, 247.014, 247.019, 247.171 and 247.292
8 by sections 3 to 8 of this 2023 Act.

9 **SECTION 12.** (1) Section 9 of this 2023 Act becomes operative on
10 January 1, 2027.

11 (2) The Secretary of State, the Department of Corrections, the De-
12 partment of Transportation and the county clerks may take any action
13 on or after January 1, 2026, and before the operative date specified in
14 subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for the Secretary of
15 State, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Transporta-
16 tion and the county clerks to exercise, on and after the operative date
17 specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions
18 and powers conferred on the Secretary of State, the Department of
19 Corrections, the Department of Transportation and the county clerks
20 by section 9 of this 2023 Act.