



MODEL BILL
Online Voter Registration

Section 1. This Act may be cited as the Online Voter Registration Act of 2011.

Section 2. Requiring Availability of Internet for Voter Registration.

- a. [State's voter registration statute] is amended by inserting after Section ___ [*the section in state election law describing methods of registration*] the following new section:

Section ___. ONLINE REGISTRATION

1. REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

- a. The Secretary of State [*or state's chief election official*] shall ensure that the following services are available to the public at any time on the official public websites of the appropriate state and local election officials:
- (1) Online application for voter registration, the content of which shall be equivalent to the form provided by designated voter registration agencies;
 - (2) Online assistance to those applying to register to vote;
 - (3) Online completion and submission by applicants of the voter registration application, including the electronic signature of the applicant pursuant to subsection (c) of this section; and
 - (4) Online receipt of completed voter registration applications.
- b. An application submitted under this section shall be deemed submitted to the election authority on the date it is sent.
- c. An applicant for voter registration under this section provides an electronic signature by:
- (1) executing a computerized mark* in the signature field as instructed on the online application, or
 - (2) submitting an electronic copy of the applicant's handwritten signature through electronic means, which the Secretary of State [*or state's chief election official*] shall accept beginning one year after the effective date of this Act

* Such as the marks or initials that are now commonly inserted by clicking on the signature field in online consumer, real estate, and other transactions.

2. DISPOSITION OF ONLINE APPLICATION

- a. Upon submission of a completed voter registration application under this section, the official website shall generate an immediate electronic confirmation on the website that the application has been received, with instructions as to how the applicant may check the status of the application thereafter.
- b. The appropriate state or local election officials shall accept an online voter registration application submitted under this section and ensure that the individual is registered to vote in the state if:
 - (1) the individual meets the same voter registration eligibility requirements applicable to individuals who register to vote by mail; and
 - (2) the individual provides an electronic signature in accordance with Sec. 1(c).
- c. The appropriate state or local election official shall inform the applicant for voter registration of the disposition of the application by regular mail and, at the option of the applicant, electronic mail.
- d. Upon voting for the first time in the State after registering under this section, the voter shall supply a handwritten signature:
 - (1.) at the polling place when the individual appears to vote, or
 - (2.) if the voter wishes to vote by absentee ballot, on a form provided by the election authority to be returned with an absentee ballot, provided the voter submitted an electronic copy of his or her handwritten signature pursuant to Section 1 (c)(2).
- e. No legal distinction shall be made between registration under this section and in-person, mail, or other registration methods [*or cite the other sections of the state law describing registration methods*].

3. USE OF INTERNET TO UPDATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- a. The appropriate state or local election officials shall ensure that any legally registered voter may at any time update the voter's registration information, including the voter's address, online through the official public websites of the election officials responsible for the maintenance of the computerized statewide voter registration list.
- b. The election official shall revise any information on the computerized list to reflect the update made by the voter at any time up to and including 7 days before the date of the

next election. [*Note: in states that permit updating at the polling place on Election Day, this subsection is unnecessary.*]

- c. Upon the online submission of updated registration information under this subsection, the appropriate state or local election official shall send a notice confirming receipt of the updated information by regular mail, and, at the option of the voter, by electronic mail.
- d. The Secretary of State [*or state's chief election official*] shall establish appropriate technological security measures, such as the use of the unique identifier for each registrant, to prevent unauthorized persons from altering a registered voter's registration information.