

HB 30 -- VOTER IDENTIFICATION (Dugger)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Elections

This bill changes the laws regarding elections by requiring persons wishing to vote in a public election to present specified personal identification to establish their identity and eligibility to vote. Satisfactory forms of identification include a nonexpired Missouri driver's license or nonexpired or nonexpiring Missouri nondriver's license, a document issued by the United States of the State of Missouri containing the name of the individual that shows a photograph of the individual, or any armed services identification containing a photograph that is not expired or does not have an expiration date.

A person who appears at a polling place without one of the specified forms of personal identification may execute an affidavit that he or she does not possess one of the specified forms because of an inability to pay for birth certificates or other supporting documentation or because he or she was born on or before January 1, 1950. The state and all fee offices must provide one form of the required personal identification at no cost to any otherwise qualified voter who does not already possess the identification and who desires the identification in order to vote. Subject to the appropriation of funds, the state and its agencies must provide one Missouri birth certificate free of charge to a person seeking to obtain identification in order to vote. If the person was not born in this state, this state and its agencies must pay any fee charged by the other state for a birth certificate or for other documents legally required by the other state. If there is no appropriation of funds, election authorities must not enforce the photographic identification provisions. Any person denied the ability to cast a regular ballot because of a lack of photographic identification must be allowed to vote by provisional ballot. The provisional ballot must not be counted unless the voter returns to the election authority within three days after the election and provides a specified personal identification.

All election authority costs associated with the implementation of the photo identification requirements of these provisions must be reimbursed from general revenue by an appropriation for that purpose. If there is no appropriation, then the identification requirements must not be enforced.

These provisions will become effective only upon the passage and approval by the voters of a constitutional amendment regarding the authorization of photo identification requirements by general law.