

HB 641 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Merideth

This bill modifies election laws. In its main provisions the bill:

(1) Allows same day voter registration and allows registration using state-approved online voter registration system at locations approved by the Secretary of State, election authorities, and polling places (Section 115.135);

(2) Allows absentee ballot applications to be made by electronic mail and allows voting of absentee ballots without requirement of stating an excuse. All Missouri residents entitled to vote may make use of an online absentee ballot tracking system as specified in the bill. Other changes to absentee voting requirements are specified in the bill (Sections 115.277, 115.298);

(3) Allows counting of absentee ballots postmarked by the day of election and received within seven days of the election (Section 115.293);

(4) Creates a process for local election authorities to use information provided by the Secretary of State to include voters on voter registration lists. Voters will have the opportunity to decline to be registered by returning notice to local election authorities, and local election authorities retain authority to verify registrations (Section 115.970); and

(5) Repeals a mail in ballot provision related to the COVID-19 pandemic that is now expired (Section 115.302).

This bill is similar to HB 1396, HB 1397 and HB1393 (2020).