



Proposed Statutory Language to Implement Secure Online Voter Registration

Effect of Proposed Language

- The proposed language would add a new Section 13-2-209 to the Montana Code to require the Secretary of State to develop an Internet website for eligible voters to apply for registration online.
- To be eligible for online registration, the applicant would need to have a valid Montana driver's license or state identification card. The applicant would provide all information currently required for voter registration applications and consent to their signature on file with the Motor Vehicle Division being transmitted to the Secretary of State and their local election administrator.
- If the application is accepted, the application information and information from the Motor Vehicle Division, including a digital copy of the applicant's signature and ID numbers belonging to the applicant on file with the Division will be securely transmitted to the Secretary and the appropriate local election administrator.
- Approved applications would become effective on the 30th day after transmission of the application by the applicant through the website.
- As a safeguard, the online registration website will be designed to prevent the submission of applications in the period beginning 30 days before certain statewide elections and ending on the day after the election.

Proposed Statutory Language

Montana Code § 13-2-209. Electronic Voter Registration.

(a) The secretary of state shall implement a program to allow a person who has a valid Montana driver's license or state identification card to complete a voter registration application over the Internet from an official website of this state. The secretary of state shall develop an Internet website for this purpose.

(b) An applicant for electronic voter registration must:



(1) attest to the truth of the information provided on the application by affirmatively accepting the information as true;

(2) affirmatively consent to the use of the signature on the applicant's Montana driver's license or state identification card for voter registration purposes;

(3) provide the information required under Section 13-2-110; and

(4) provide the number and date of issuance of the applicant's Montana driver's license or state identification card.

(c) When a person submits an application under this section, the secretary of state shall compare the information provided by the applicant against Motor Vehicle Division records. If any information submitted by an applicant does not match Motor Vehicle Division records, the secretary shall reject the application. The secretary shall provide written notification of any reason for rejection of an application to the applicant.

(d) The completed online application and information from the Motor Vehicle Division, including all copies of the applicant's digital signature on record, any identification number associated with a driver's license or state identification issued to the applicant, and the last four digits of the applicant's social security number (if part of the applicant's record with the Division) shall be securely transmitted to:

(1) the election administrator for the county where the applicant currently resides; and

(2) the secretary of state for the statewide computerized voter registration list under Section 13-2-107.

(e) An application submitted electronically under this section is considered for all purposes as an application submitted by mail under this chapter.

(f) An approved application submitted through the Internet website described in subsection (a) becomes effective on the 30th day after the date the application is submitted by the applicant through the website or on the date the applicant becomes 18 years of age, whichever is later.

(g) The secretary shall ensure that the Internet website described in subsection (a) is designed so that it will not accept applications beginning at 11:59 PM on the 30th day before a general or primary election. The website must resume accepting applications on the day following the election.

(h) The secretary of state shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.