

**Senate File 2278 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2278  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3130)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act permitting electronic voter registration and including  
2 penalties and effective date provisions.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 39A.2, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
2 subparagraph (2), Code 2014, is amended to read as follows:

3 (2) Falsely swears to an oath required pursuant to section  
4 48A.7A or section 48A.8A.

5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **48A.8A Electronic registration.**

6 1. An eligible elector may apply to register to vote by  
7 electronic means by completing and submitting an electronic  
8 voter registration form provided through the state commissioner  
9 of elections' internet site. A commissioner of registration's  
10 internet site may provide an electronic link to the electronic  
11 voter registration form provided under this subsection.

12 2. An electronic voter registration form completed pursuant  
13 to this section shall require that a registrant:

14 a. Provide the information as required pursuant to section  
15 48A.11.

16 b. Have an Iowa driver's license, Iowa nonoperator's  
17 identification card, a social security number, or an  
18 identification number provided pursuant to section 48A.11,  
19 subsection 8.

20 c. Attest to a statement that lists each eligibility  
21 requirement, that the registrant meets all of the requirements,  
22 and requires the electronic signature of the registrant,  
23 consistent with electronic signatures as defined in section  
24 554D.103.

25 d. Sign the electronic voter registration form in a manner  
26 consistent with electronic signatures as defined in section  
27 554D.103.

28 e. Affirmatively authorize the state commissioner of  
29 elections to use the registrant's signature obtained from  
30 the department of transportation or from a commissioner of  
31 registration for voter registration purposes.

32 f. In order for a registrant to register under this section,  
33 the state commissioner of elections shall verify that the Iowa  
34 driver's license number, Iowa nonoperator's identification card  
35 number, last four numerals of the registrant's social security

1 number, or the unique identifying number, and date of birth  
2 provided by the registrant match the information contained in  
3 department of transportation records or in commissioner of  
4 registration records.

5 3. *a.* The department of transportation shall, upon  
6 request, provide to the state commissioner of elections a copy  
7 of the registrant's signature in electronic format, if the  
8 registrant's signature is on record with the department of  
9 transportation.

10 *b.* A commissioner of registration shall, upon request,  
11 provide to the state commissioner of elections a copy of  
12 the registrant's signature in electronic format, if the  
13 registrant's signature is accepted and on record with the  
14 commissioner of registration pursuant to section 48A.13.

15 4. *a.* The state commissioner of elections shall transmit  
16 to the appropriate commissioner of registration a registrant's  
17 completed voter registration form and electronic signature not  
18 later than five business days after the date of electronic  
19 submission of the form by the registrant.

20 *b.* The state commissioner of elections shall notify the  
21 registrant by mail within five business days if a copy of  
22 the registrant's signature cannot be obtained by the state  
23 commissioner of elections in electronic format pursuant to  
24 subsection 3. The state commissioner of elections shall  
25 include a voter registration form with the notice.

26 5. A voter registration form completed under this section  
27 shall be accompanied by the following statement featured  
28 prominently on the internet site in boldface capital letters:

29 **WARNING: I UNDERSTAND THAT ANY FALSE STATEMENT IN THIS OATH**  
30 **IS A CLASS "D" FELONY PUNISHABLE BY NO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS IN**  
31 **CONFINEMENT AND A FINE OF AT LEAST SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS**  
32 **BUT NOT MORE THAN SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.**

33 6. An eligible elector who registers pursuant to this  
34 section and who has not previously voted in an election for  
35 federal office in the county of registration shall be treated

1 as a registrant by mail and is subject to the provisions of  
2 section 48A.8, subsections 2 through 4.

3 Sec. 3. Section 48A.27, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
4 2014, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:  
5 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (6) A voter registration form submitted  
6 as provided in section 48A.8A.

7 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,  
8 2015.

9 EXPLANATION

10 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
11 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12 This bill permits electronic voter registration from the  
13 state commissioner of elections' internet site.

14 The bill allows an eligible elector to apply to register  
15 to vote by electronic means by completing and submitting an  
16 electronic voter registration form provided on the internet  
17 site for the secretary of state as the state commissioner of  
18 elections.

19 The bill requires that an electronic voter registration  
20 form provide all information that is currently required on  
21 printed voter registration forms. The bill also requires that  
22 a registrant seeking to use the electronic voter registration  
23 form have an Iowa driver's license, Iowa nonoperator's  
24 identification card, a social security number, or a unique  
25 identifying number assigned to the registrant for voter  
26 registration purposes.

27 The bill requires that a registrant attest to a statement  
28 that lists each voter registration eligibility requirement,  
29 that the registrant meets all of the requirements, and requires  
30 the electronic signature of the registrant, consistent with  
31 Code section 554D.103, as part of the uniform electronic  
32 transactions Act. The bill further requires that a registrant  
33 sign the electronic voter registration form in a manner  
34 consistent with that Code section.

35 The bill requires that the registrant authorize the

1 state commissioner of elections to use the applicant's  
2 signature obtained from the department of transportation or a  
3 commissioner of registration for voter registration purposes.  
4 The state commissioner of elections is required to notify a  
5 registrant by mail within five business days if a copy of the  
6 registrant's signature cannot be obtained and is required to  
7 include a voter registration form with that notice.

8 The bill requires that the state commissioner of elections  
9 verify that the Iowa driver's license, Iowa nonoperator's  
10 identification card, last four numerals of the registrant's  
11 social security number, or unique identifying number, and date  
12 of birth provided by the registrant match the information  
13 contained in department of transportation records or in  
14 commissioner of registration records. The bill requires the  
15 state commissioner of elections to transmit to the appropriate  
16 commissioner of registration a registrant's completed voter  
17 registration application and electronic signature not later  
18 than five business days after the date of submission of the  
19 application and signature.

20 The bill requires that the electronic registration form be  
21 accompanied by a statement featured prominently in boldface  
22 capital letters informing the registrant of the penalty  
23 for providing false information on a voter registration  
24 application.

25 The bill also requires that an electronic voter registration  
26 registrant who has not previously voted in an election for  
27 federal office in the county of registration must follow the  
28 voting requirements of Code section 48A.8 for registrants  
29 submitting applications by mail under current law and who have  
30 not previously voted in an election for federal office in the  
31 county of registration. These provisions under current law  
32 require that a mail registrant who has not previously voted in  
33 an election for federal office in the county of registration  
34 shall be required to provide identification documents when  
35 voting for the first time in the county, unless the registrant

1 provided on the registration form the registrant's Iowa  
2 driver's license number, the registrant's Iowa nonoperator's  
3 identification card number, or the last four numerals of the  
4 registrant's social security number and such information  
5 provided matches an existing state or federal identification  
6 record with the same number, name, and date of birth. Code  
7 section 48A.8 also provides that a registrant who votes in  
8 person at the polls or by absentee ballot at the commissioner's  
9 office or at a satellite voting station shall provide a form of  
10 identification specified in that Code section. Code section  
11 48A.8 also requires that if a registrant is voting for the  
12 first time following mail registration and votes an absentee  
13 ballot by mail, the registrant shall provide a photocopy of the  
14 identification document when returning the absentee ballot.  
15 Code section 48A.8 also allows a registrant voting in person  
16 for the first time following submission of a registration form  
17 by mail to vote a provisional ballot if the voter does not  
18 provide the required identification documents.

19 The bill extends the category for the crime of voter  
20 registration fraud to include fraudulent electronic  
21 registration. Registration fraud is a class "D" felony. A  
22 class "D" felony is punishable by confinement for no more than  
23 five years and a fine of at least \$750 but not more than \$7,500.

24 The bill takes effect January 1, 2015.