A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to require the Board of Elections to accept electronic registration information from the Department of Motor Vehicles, and to use this information to register voters and maintain up-to-date voter rolls, provided that each person has an opportunity to opt out of automatic registration; and to amend the District of Columbia Traffic Amendment Act, 1925 to require the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide the Board of Elections with electronic records containing the legal name, age, residence, and citizenship information and electronic signature of each person who may qualify as a qualified elector.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Automatic Voter Registration Amendment Act of 2015”.

Sec. 2. Section 7 of the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.07) is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (a)(2) is amended to read as follows:

“(a)(2)(A) He or she executes an application to register to vote by signature or mark (unless prevented by physical disability) on a form approved pursuant to subsection (b) of
this section or by the Federal Election Commission attesting that he or she meets the
requirements as a qualified elector, and if he or she desires to vote in party election, this
form shall indicate his or her political party affiliation; or

"(B) He or she applies for a DMV-issued identification, pursuant to subsection
(c) of this section; and”.

(b) Subsection (c)(1) is amended as follows:

(1) Subparagraph (A) is amended by striking the phrase “District of
Columbia, unless the applicant fails to sign the voter registration portion of the
application.” and inserting the phrase “District of Columbia.” in its place.

(2) Subparagraph (B) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) The DMV application form shall contain the necessary information for:

“(i) The issuance, renewal, or correction of the applicant's driver's
permit or non-driver's identification card; and

“(ii) Means for the applicant to:

“(I) State whether the applicant is a citizen of the United
States;

“(II) Indicate a choice of party affiliation, if any;

“(III) Provide a mailing address, if mail is not received at the
residence address;

“(IV) Indicate the last address of voter registration, if known;

and

“(V) Decline to register to vote.”.

(3) Subparagraph (D) is amended by striking the phrase “change of address
or name unless the applicant states on the combined portion of the form that the change of
address or name is not for voter registration purposes.” and inserting the phrase “change of
address or name.” in its place.

(4) Subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) are repealed.

(5) Subparagraph (H) is amended to read as follows:

“(H)(i) The Board shall by rule establish a schedule by which the DMV shall
provide to the Board electronic records containing the legal name, age, residence, and
citizenship information for, and the electronic signature of, each citizen who did not decline
to register to vote pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii)(V) of this paragraph, provided that the
deadline for transmission of the electronic records to the Board shall be not later than 10
days after the date of acceptance by the DMV.

“(ii) When an application is accepted within 5 days before the last day for
registration to vote in an election, the application shall be transmitted to the Board not
later than 5 days after the date of its acceptance.”.

(6) Subparagraph (I) is amended by striking the phrase “An application to
register to vote or for change of address, party, or name” and inserting the phrase “An
application” in its place.

(7) Subparagraph (J) is repealed.

(c) Subsection (e) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase “from any applicant” and
inserting the phrase “from any applicant or from the DMV of the electronic record for, and
electronic signature of, an applicant, as described in subsection (c)(1)(H) of this section,” in
its place.

(2) Paragraph (2) is amended by designating the existing text as
subparagraph (A) and inserting a new subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) For applications received from the DMV as described in
subsection (c)(1)(H) of this section, the notification shall also include information on the
process to decline registration and to adopt a political party affiliation, if one was not
designated on the DMV application.”.

Sec. 3. Section 7(a-1) of the District of Columbia Traffic Amendment Act, 1925,
approved March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1121; D.C. Official Code § 50-1401.01(a-1)) is amended to
read as follows:

“(a-1) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall provide to the Board of Elections
electronic records containing the legal name, age, residence, and citizenship information
for, and the electronic signature of, each citizen who did not decline to register to vote.”.

Sec. 4. Rulemaking.

The Board may adopt rules required to implement this section.

Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 6. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by
the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional
review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved
December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the
District of Columbia Register.