

HB 294

Enact Ohio Election Security and Modernization Act

Good

- Allows electronic versions of bank statements and utility bills for voter ID
 - Leaves out electronic paystubs and government checks
- All 17 year olds may become poll workers
- Requires county Boards of Election to create and publish Election Administration Plans for certain elections
- Requires county Boards of Election to verify all petition signatures and record that in a voters' registration record

Bad

- Eliminates the use of drop boxes entirely until 10 days before an election. County Boards of Election may use up to 3 drop boxes for remaining 10 days only at the county board
- Shortens the absentee ballot request window by 7 days
 - Includes in-person absentee ballot requests and overseas military voters
- Cuts early voting hours by eliminating the last day of early voting
- Requires a confusing three tiered voter ID process for absentee ballots that can lead to long lines and inappropriately forcing voters to cast a provisional ballot
- Abolishes prepaid return postage for absentee ballot requests and absentee ballots
- Restricts curbside voting to only people with a physical disability
 - Allows someone to “challenge” whether a person has a qualifying disability
- Continues the prohibition of grandchildren dropping off absentee ballots
- Eliminates a voter's ability to cure their absentee ballot if not returned in the sealed ID envelope and return envelope

Needs a Closer Look

- Creates Automated Voter Registration and Verification System
- Creates Online Absentee Ballot Request portal