



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

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Bill Number

Senate Bill 16-083

Sponsors

**Senator Baumgardner
Representative Joshi**

Short Title

**Government-issued Photo ID
For Voting**

Research Analyst

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Status

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee on April 20, 2016.

Summary

The bill amends the list of documents that can be used for voter identification under the Uniform Election Code of 1992.

Documents that may no longer be used for identification include:

- utility bills, bank statements, and government checks, paychecks, or other government documents that show the name and address of the elector;
- Medicare or Medicaid cards;
- certified copies of a birth certificate; and
- certified documentation of naturalization.

The bill clarifies that in order to use a pilot's license or federally-recognized tribal membership card as identification, the document must show a photograph of the elector. The bill prohibits the use of a drivers license issued under the Colorado Road and Community Safety Act, which allows the Department of Revenue to issue driver's licenses to certain individuals who are not lawfully present or who are only temporarily lawfully present in the U.S.

The bill also clarifies that the Department of Revenue cannot charge certain persons a fee for state-issued identification cards issued to an elector for the purpose of casting a ballot

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Background

The following types of voting "identification" are not affected by the bill:

- a valid Colorado driver's license not issued under the Colorado Road and Community Safety Act;
- a valid identification card issued by the Department of Revenue;
- a valid U.S. passport;
- a valid employee identification card with a photograph of the elector issued by any branch of the United States government or of this state, or by any county, municipality, board, authority, or other political subdivision of this state;
- a valid United States military identification card with a photograph of the elector;
- a valid student identification card with a photograph of the eligible elector issued by an institution of higher education in Colorado; or
- a valid veteran identification card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration with a photograph of the elector.

This list of acceptable documents for voter identification was introduced into Colorado law in 2003 under legislation implementing the Help America Vote Act, a federal law.

Under current law, the Department of Revenue does not charge a fee to issue a state identification card for an applicant who is:

- age sixty years or older;
- referred by a county department of social services; or
- referred by the Department of Corrections, Division of Youth Corrections, or a county jail.

Senate Action

Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (February 24, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from Colorado Cross Disability Coalition, the League of Women Voters, Disability Law Colorado, Common Cause, and the AARP testified against the bill. Representatives from the Colorado Secretary of State's Office, and the Arapahoe and El Paso County Clerk and Records Offices testified in support of the bill. A representative from Colorado Legal Services testified in a neutral capacity.

Senate Appropriations Committee (March 11, 2016). The committee adopted amendment J.001 and referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole. The amendment adds an appropriations clause to the bill.

Senate Second Reading (March 15, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

Senate Third Reading (March 16, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House Action

House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee (April 20, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from Disability Law Colorado, Colorado Common Cause, Colorado Public

Interest Research Group, the League of Women Voters and the AARP testified against the bill. Representatives from the Colorado Secretary of State's Office and the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office testified in support of the bill. One private citizen testified in support of the bill. The committee postponed the bill indefinitely.