



## Bill Summary

# Use of State College IDs for Voter Identification

**HB 1057**

**Sponsor:** Rep. John Ray Clemmons

**SB 829**

**Sponsor:** Sen. Raumesh Akbari

**This is a caption bill to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-112(c). This amendment would allow current, eligible students attending public institutions in Tennessee to use their student ID as valid photo identification to vote.**

**Fiscal Note:** No significant impact

### Bill Description:

Currently, a registered voter must provide a government-issued photo identification in order to cast a vote in Tennessee. Eligible forms of photo identification include a Tennessee driver's license; a U.S. or Tennessee photo ID; a valid U.S. passport; a valid U.S. military photo identification card; a Tennessee handgun carry permit; an employee identification card for retired state employees; and a valid employee identification card issued by the state of Tennessee.

In addition to these types of photo ID, a valid photo identification card issued to a current student by a public institution of higher education would become an acceptable form of identification if this bill becomes law.

### Why This Bill Matters:

- Administrators, professors, and staff of public institutions of higher education are allowed to use the same ID issued by a state university or college as appropriate identification to vote.
- This caption bill would promote equity in the voting process by allowing college students who live, work, and attend a public college in Tennessee, to participate in the voting process through the use of their college ID as appropriate identification to vote.
- The use of college IDs will not allow illegal immigrants to vote. T.C.A. 2-2-141 requires proof of citizenship to register to vote. The coordinator of elections is required to compare the statewide voter registration database with the department of safety database to ensure non-United States citizens are not registered to vote in Tennessee.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- **35** states require voter ID
- Tennessee is one of **17** states with 'strict voter ID' laws.
- Tennessee is among **7** states that do not accept student IDs (AZ, IA, ND, OH, SC, TN, TX)
- **22** public colleges and universities in Tennessee
- **221,775** students enrolled in community colleges and public universities (2018-2019)

*Sources: [Campusvoteproject.org](http://campusvoteproject.org); Tennessee Higher Education Commission*