

HB 1739 -- ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AND
PETITIONS

SPONSOR: McGaugh

This bill authorizes a local election authority to accept voter registration applications with electronic signatures under specified conditions. An officer, agency, or organization cannot collect or submit a voter registration application with an electronic signature without first obtaining approval of the signature format from the local election authority and the approval of the voter to collect and store the signature and data.

Within 30 days of the effective date of the bill, the president of the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities must appoint a 15-person committee of its members to develop uniform standards and a format that must be used by the Secretary of State in any electronic voter registration application system offered by the Secretary of State or agencies conducting registration under the National Voter Registration Act and accepted by local election authorities. These provisions do not apply to voter registration and absentee records submitted by voters authorized under federal law to submit electronic records and signatures.

The bill requires that any signature required for initiative petition submission under Chapter 116, RSMo, to be handwritten on a paper document. High quality copies, including electronic copies, of these signatures may be used for signature verification purposes and retained as records.