



Larry Gene Taylor
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Sen. Taylor's Provision Protecting the Right to Vote Is Signed Into Law

JEFFERSON CITY—Legislation including an amendment introduced by the late State Sen. Larry Gene Taylor, R-Shell Knob, protecting the integrity of the right to vote was signed into law today by Gov. Matt Blunt.

House Bill 353 is an omnibus crime measure sponsored by Rep. Scott Lipke, R-Jackson. Sen. Taylor secured a provision in the legislation requiring that voting registrants show proof of U.S. citizenship before they can register to vote.

Sen. Taylor, who died July 6 of cancer complications, was an adamant supporter of shielding the polls from anti-American sentiments and guarding consumers from the threat of identity theft, a risk that increases with easily obtainable voter registration cards.

Gay Taylor attended the gubernatorial bill-signing ceremony in the place of her husband.

"Larry felt that the lax voting registration requirements undermined what Americans have fought for over the past two centuries because non-U.S. citizens have no right to express their opinions with a cast ballot," Gay Taylor said. "I'm really proud of Larry for getting one of his main legislative priorities passed, and I know that if he were here today, he would express his gratitude to his fellow lawmakers and the governor for their support."

Typically, bills approved by the governor do not become law until August 28. However, this measure includes an emergency clause, which means that with the governor's signature, the bill is goes into effect immediately.

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