



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2020

Legislative Document

No. 2114

H.P. 1507

House of Representatives, February 20, 2020

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Secretary of State Regarding Automatic Voter Registration

Reported by Representative SCHNECK of Bangor for the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 409, section 7.

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §232, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 409, §6 and
3 affected by §9, is amended to read:

4 **1. Application for driver's license or nondriver identification card; creation of**
5 **pending voter registration record.** If an individual applies for a driver's license or
6 nondriver identification card from the bureau, unless the individual opts out under section
7 234, the bureau shall ~~scan~~ record the documentation provided by the individual and create
8 a pending voter registration record for that individual, which must be stored electronically
9 in the bureau's database. The pending voter registration record and the record of the
10 accompanying ~~scanned~~ documentation must be in a searchable, auditable format.

11 **Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §232, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

12 **1-A. Creation of pending voter registration record in other circumstances.** If an
13 individual has previously applied for a driver's license or nondriver identification card
14 from the bureau and the bureau has recorded the necessary documentation provided by
15 that individual, unless the individual opts out under section 234, the bureau shall create a
16 pending voter registration record for that individual whenever the individual appears in
17 person at the bureau's office to conduct other transactions. The pending voter registration
18 record and the record of the accompanying documentation must be in a searchable,
19 auditable format.

20 **Sec. 3. Report.** By January 1, 2021, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to
21 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over voter registration
22 matters on the progress made toward implementing automatic voter registration and the
23 estimated time required to complete all activities necessary for implementation. The
24 report may include recommended legislation for the proper implementation of the
25 automatic voter registration system, including recommended adjustments to the
26 implementation date. The joint standing committee may report out legislation to the First
27 Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.

28 **Sec. 4. Effective date.** Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised
29 Statutes, Title 21-A, section 232, subsection 1 and enact Title 21-A, section 232,
30 subsection 1-A take effect January 1, 2022.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill, which is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and
33 Legal Affairs pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 409, section 7, implements the
34 recommendations of the Secretary of State for implementation of the automatic voter
35 registration system. The committee has not taken a position on the substance of the bill
36 and by reporting this bill out the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to
37 suggest that it agrees or disagrees with any aspect of this bill. The committee is reporting
38 the bill out for the sole purpose of obtaining a printed bill that can be referred to the
39 committee for a public hearing and subsequent committee action in the normal course.

1 The committee is taking this action to ensure clarity and transparency in the legislative
2 review of the proposal.

3 The bill replaces the requirement that the Department of the Secretary of State,
4 Bureau of Motor Vehicles scan documentation that will be used to create a pending voter
5 registration record for an individual who has not opted out of automatic voter registration
6 and who applies for a driver's license or nondriver identification card with a requirement
7 that the bureau record the individual's documentation for pending voter registration
8 record purposes. The bill also authorizes the bureau to create a pending voter registration
9 record for an individual who has previously applied for a driver's license or nondriver
10 identification card and submitted documentation sufficient to create a pending voter
11 registration record if the individual appears before the bureau to conduct another
12 transaction and does not opt out of automatic voter registration.

13 The bill directs the Secretary of State to submit, by January 1, 2021, a report to the
14 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over voter registration
15 matters on the progress made toward implementing automatic voter registration and the
16 estimated time required to complete all activities necessary for implementation. The joint
17 standing committee may report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 130th
18 Legislature based on the report.