

Sandra Labonte  
Searsport  
LD 397

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Honorable members of Veterans and Legal Affairs.

My name is Sandra Labonte and I live in Searsport. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony and for your serving the State of Maine.

I support of LD397, An Act to Require a Voter to Show Photographic Identification. As a poll clerk in Bangor several years ago and now in Searsport, I know that it is possible, without requiring a photo ID, for anyone to vote more than once.

This is how it works at polling places. There are people who check voters in (the poll clerks). There are usually shifts of different people filling that role throughout the 12-hour day. The clerk asks the voter to state their name and address and the clerk checks it against the official voter list. If confirmed, the voter is handed a ballot and then proceeds to the voting booth to vote.

Without having been asked for a photo ID, the voter could conceivably return later, with a different clerk to check him in, using the name of someone he knows has died or moved. I know for a fact that the names of people who have died or moved several years ago are still on the official voter lists. With a photo ID it would be impossible to vote more than once.

A photo ID is also needed to make sure that the one voting is actually a citizen of the United States and has already registered with the state to have the privilege of voting. No one is disenfranchised by needing a photo ID to drive a car, open a bank account, fly on a plane, purchase alcohol, etc.

I believe that showing an ID at your place of voting would ensure an honorable election.

Thank you for your time.

Please vote "Ought to pass".