



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony  
In Support of

### **LD 1431 An Act to Implement an Interstate Voter Registration Cross-check Program**

Dear Sen Hickman, Rep. Supica and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. I am State Representative Barbara Bagshaw, representing District 106, part of Windham. I am sponsoring **LD 1431 An Act to Implement an Interstate Voter Registration Cross-check Program**

Voter registration is the first line of defense and the cornerstone of a secure election system. The critical verification process should ensure that only eligible individuals are registered and thereby granted access to a ballot. Maintaining clean, accurate voter rolls upholds the principle of One Person, One Vote. If rolls are bloated with ineligible voters, it creates the opportunity for malfeasance that can dilute the votes of qualified voters. It is well established that accurate rolls make elections more secure. Accurate voter lists also help officials streamline election administration and properly allocate resources—like ballots and poll workers.

Federal and State law requires Maine to conduct activities for the purpose of ensuring the accuracy and currency of the state's official lists of eligible voters.

For example, the Help America Vote Act, HAVA, requires Maine's election system to "include provisions to ensure that voter registration records in the State are **accurate** and are **updated regularly**." (52 U.S.C. § 21083(a)(4)) HAVA further requires "appropriate State or local election official[s] to] perform list maintenance...on a **regular basis**."

Maine law also requires (MRSA 21-A, § 161(2-A)(A)-(B)) election officials to cancel a voter's registration record "[w]hen it is **determined that a voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction in the State**" or "**in another jurisdiction outside of the State**." Thus, both federal and state law require Maine election officials to maintain and update voter registration records to ensure that Maine is keeping an accurate and current account of its official lists of eligible voters as those voters move, die, or otherwise change their personal information.

In January, Secretary Bellows reported<sup>1</sup> on the voter list maintenance activities for Maine's Central Voter Registration system or "CVR" during calendar year 2024. The report provided to the legislature from Secretary Bellows makes it clear that many of the required list maintenance activities are not being done. As of January 1, 2025, Maine had 1,223,284 unique individuals on the voter rolls. (active and inactive) Maine's Voting Age Population is 1,146,670. That means that more than 106% of eligible Maine voters are on the voter rolls—that statistic alone demonstrates the need for this bill.

**This Bipartisan Bill** balances the need for accurate voter rolls while ensuring the privacy of the Mainers is protected. The Bill authorizes the Secretary to utilize other tools for list maintenance – tools that may provide a better return on investment.

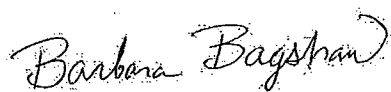
Specifically, it authorizes the Secretary to enter into agreements with other states to identify voters who moved out of state. It also authorizes the Secretary to contract with private sector providers like the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) but doesn't limit the Secretary's options. In 2024, the Secretary only received 2 reports from the ERIC– the federal death records report of Maine voters who died while out of state and a report of duplicate registrations – people who were registered in multiple Maine jurisdictions. According to the Secretary's report, list maintenance activities that were the result of the ERIC membership were minimal. **This Bill** will enable the Secretary to access information that could be more useful and less expensive.

**The Bill** also increases the reporting requirements to the legislature so that we will have better oversight of the programs. As I mentioned, the law requires list maintenance on a "regular basis."

**Most importantly, this bill protects the personal data of our citizens. I believe that we have a duty to safeguard that sensitive personal information and to ensure that it is managed responsibly.**

Protecting voters sensitive private data is critical---particularly in the wake of the increase in breaches that have led to fraud, identity theft, and eroded public trust. Each time data is shared with other entities—whether companies, governments, or third parties, the risk of a breach multiplies due to increased exposure to vulnerabilities. Limiting data sharing reduces the number of access points and minimizes the likelihood of breaches and their devastating consequences.

I ask you to join with me to support this bill.



Barbara Bagshaw  
State Representative

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<sup>1</sup> January 15, 2025 Report from SOS Shanna Bellows: <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/11362>