



TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: April 16, 2025

RE: LD 1431 - An Act to Implement an Interstate Voter Registration Cross-check Program

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

My name is Al Cleveland. I am here today as the Advocacy Director of the League of Women Voters of Maine. The League of Women Voters is a consensus-based membership organization.

The League of Women Voters of the U.S. supports elections that are secure, accurate, recountable, accessible, and transparent. Accurate voter registration lists support the security of our elections. To this end, the Maine League has long supported Maine's participation in a process to identify and rectify duplicate registrations across state lines, and in 2022, we supported the Maine State Legislature's decision to authorize the Secretary of State to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). We have no objection to codifying this authorization in statute.

As described on their website, "The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization created by and comprised of state election officials from around the United States. Founded in 2012, ERIC is funded and governed by states that choose to join."

We are concerned that provision 5 of this bill, which reads, "A contract for services to carry out maintenance of voter registration under subsection 2 may not require any additional duty. . . beyond what is required in this section," may be intended to exclude participation in ERIC. In addition to list maintenance reports, ERIC generates an "Eligible but Unregistered Report" and member states are to send voter registration information to individuals on this list. These mailings "must clearly identify the voter eligibility requirements, including that the applicant must be a US Citizen to register," and states are able to "use other sources of data to filter out individuals they believe are not eligible to vote. While this provision was initially mandatory, ERIC has developed a process for exemption. That said, the League supports full participation in elections and would encourage the Secretary of State to continue providing information on voter registration to eligible individuals who have not yet registered.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.