

Barbara Baker
Bradley

Chairpersons and Members of the Committee,

I am in support of bill: LD 1126. I am in awe of the system that Maine has developed.

I served as a poll watcher for the first time last November in rural Maine. To be prepared, I researched the legislation regarding voting available to all on the Secretary of State's website. When I served for two days during absentee voting in one town and one day in my own town, I was grateful for the experience. The clerks demonstrated dedication and professionalism along with other volunteers instrumental to the process.

I previously, for the first time this year, collected registration cards at a farmer's market, depositing them immediately to the correct town clerks for processing. So, I have experience with being a third party primarily getting change of address cards and some new voter cards started into the system. The town clerks follow up with obtaining necessary identification and completion to get these cards into the system so voters will be ready to vote via absentee ballots or on the day of voting in Maine.

This bill is in plainly understood language to update and expand access to voting procedures by requiring the Department of the Secretary of State to create a process for accepting online voter registration applications for those who submit a current, valid Maine driver's license or non-driver identification card number or the last 4 digits of the applicant's social security number with a valid signature. The Secretary of State must verify the identity of each online voter registration applicant using the information from the above items. Also the SOS creates a system to change name or address or enroll or un-enroll from a party through the online voter registration application on publicly accessible SOS website. Finally the SOS will report to your committee progress on implementing a system for 3rd-party organizations to collect and to submit electronic voter registration applications.

This will make the online voting process safer, easily understood by the Clerks who administer the voting process, citizens who volunteer to help with it, and the general public wanting to exercise their sacred duty to vote.

Thank you for considering my remarks. Thank you to the authors of this bill.