

2015 -- H 5622

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LC001592  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Introduced By: Representatives Marcello, Tanzi, Regunberg, and Hearn

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 17-9.1 of the General Laws entitled "Registration of Voters" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **17-9.1-34. Electronic registration of voters. -- (a) The secretary of state shall establish**  
4 **and maintain a system for online voter registration. Such system shall also permit a registered**  
5 **elector to apply for changes to such elector's registration. An applicant may register to vote**  
6 **through this system, provided the applicant's registration information is verifiable in the manner**  
7 **described in subsection (b) of this section, and his or her signature is in a database described in**  
8 **subsection (b) such signature may be imported into such system for online voter registration.**

9           **(b) A state agency, upon the request of the secretary of state shall provide any**  
10 **information the secretary of state deems necessary to maintain the system for online voter**  
11 **registration. The secretary of state may cross reference the information input into the system by**  
12 **applicants with data or information contained in any state agency's database or a database**  
13 **administered by the federal government, or any voter registration database of another state, in**  
14 **order to verify the information submitted by applicants. The secretary of state shall not use the**  
15 **information obtained from any such database except to verify information submitted by the**  
16 **applicant, provided the applicant's signature, if part of data contained in the state agency's**  
17 **database, shall be included as part of the applicant's information contained in the system for**  
18 **online voter registration.**

19           **(c) The submission of an online application shall contain all of the information that is**

1 required for an application under § 17-9.1-1, except that a signature shall be obtained from  
2 another state agency's database pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

3 (d) In order for an applicant's registration or change in registration to be approved, the  
4 applicant shall mark the box associated with the following statement included as part of the  
5 online application:

6 "By clicking on the box below, I swear or affirm all of the following under penalty of  
7 perjury:

8 (1) I am the person whose name and identifying information is provided on this form, and  
9 I desire to register to vote in the state of Rhode Island.

10 (2) All of the information I have provided on this form is true and correct as of the date I  
11 am submitting this form.

12 (3) I authorize the division of motor vehicles or other Rhode Island state agency to  
13 transmit to the secretary of state or my city or town's board of canvassers my signature that is on  
14 file with such agency and understand that such signature will be used by the secretary of state or  
15 my city or town's board of canvassers on this online application for admission as an elector as if I  
16 had signed this form personally."

17 (e) Upon approval of such application, the secretary of state shall send a notice of  
18 approval to the elector.

19 (f) If an applicant registers to vote pursuant to the provisions of this section after the  
20 fourteenth day before an election or after the fifth day before a primary, the privileges of an  
21 elector shall not attach until the day after such election or primary, as the case may be. In such  
22 event, the secretary of state may contact such applicant, either by telephone or mail, in order to  
23 inform such applicant of the effect of such late received application and any applicable deadline  
24 for applying for admission in person.

25 (g) The secretary of state may enter into an agreement to share information or data with  
26 any other state in order to maintain the voter registration system. If an agency of this state,  
27 another state or the federal government provides the secretary of state with information or data to  
28 be used to maintain such system, the secretary of state shall not use such information or data for  
29 any purpose except to maintain such system and shall ensure that such information or data is held  
30 confidential if such information or data, while in the possession of such other agency or state or  
31 federal government, as applicable, was required to be held confidential.

32 (h) The secretary of state may provide such information or data to a nonpartisan third-  
33 party vendor for the purpose of maintaining the electronic voter registration system, provided  
34 such vendor's activities are performed under the supervision of the secretary of state and such

1 [vendor has entered into an agreement to protect the confidentiality of such information or data.](#)

2 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION

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1           This act would authorize the state secretary of state to create and administer an electronic  
2 voter registration system.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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