

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: June 12, 2001

(Filing No. S- 341)

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STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
120TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 182, L.D. 193, Bill, "An Act to Require the Secretary of State to Establish a Central Voter List for the State"

Amend the amendment in the preamble in the last indented paragraph in the last line (page 2, line 9 in amendment) by striking out the following: "now, therefore be it" and inserting in its place the following: 'and

**Emergency preamble. Whereas,** Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** this resolve establishes a task force to report on the development and implementation of a centralized voter registration list; and

**Whereas,** in order for the task force to convene and complete its work in a timely fashion, it is necessary that this resolve take effect as soon as possible; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it'

Further amend the amendment by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting in their place the following:

**'Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force to Establish a Centralized Voter Registration List,

**SENATE AMENDMENT**

referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established;  
and be it further

**Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists  
of 13 members appointed as follows:

1. Two municipal officials, one from a small town appointed  
by the Speaker of the House and one from a medium or large  
municipality, appointed jointly by the President and President  
Pro Tempore of the Senate;

2. One representative from the League of Women Voters of  
Maine, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3. Four members of the public, 2 from each of the 2  
political parties with the most members in the Legislature; of  
these 2 are appointed by the Speaker of the House and 2 are  
appointed jointly by the President and President Pro Tempore of  
the Senate;

4. Two representatives of the political parties with the  
most members in the Legislature, one from each of the 2 political  
parties with the most members in the Legislature; one is  
appointed by the Speaker of the House and one is appointed  
jointly by the President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

5. The State Information Officer, or the State Information  
Officer's designee, who serves ex officio;

6. Two election officials from the Secretary of State's  
office, who are designated by the Secretary of State and who  
serve as nonvoting ex officio members; and

7. The Secretary of State, or the secretary's designee, who  
serves as a nonvoting ex officio member and who serves as the  
chair of the task force; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved:** That all appointments must be  
made by August 1, 2001; and be it further

**Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall study the  
requirements necessary to develop and implement a centralized  
voter registration list in order to:

1. Eliminate duplicate registrations on a statewide basis;
2. Administer automatic changes of address;

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- 3. Provide for systematic list maintenance activities; and
- 4. Produce current voter registration statistics and lists on a statewide basis, as well as by municipality, county and electoral district.

The task force shall investigate the use of the Internet as an infrastructure linking all municipal jurisdictions to a centralized voter registration list, providing for real-time registration updates and ensuring against the possibility of certain types of voter fraud. The task force shall further investigate the use of this same network for electronically filing timely election results with the Secretary of State. The task force may apply for and accept federal or other funds for the purpose of implementing a centralized voter registration list; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Compensation. Resolved:** That members of the task force not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities whom they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force; and be it further

**Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, the office of the Secretary of State shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

**Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall report its findings by January 15, 2002 to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs. The committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature; and be it further

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.'

**FISCAL NOTE**

The Office of the Secretary of State will incur some minor additional costs to provide staffing assistance and compensation to the task force. These costs can be absorbed within the Secretary of State's existing budgeted resources.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment removes the authority of the Secretary of

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 182,  
L.D. 193

2 State to convene a task force to study the requirements necessary  
3 to develop and implement a centralized voter registration list  
4 and instead establishes the Task Force to Establish a Centralized  
5 Voter Registration List. Members of the task force are appointed  
6 jointly by the Speaker of the House and the ranking leader of the  
7 House Republicans and the President and President Pro Tempore of  
8 the Senate and consist of municipal officials, a representative  
9 of the League of Women Voters of Maine, public members,  
10 representatives of the major political parties, the State  
11 Information Officer, the Secretary of State and staff from the  
12 Secretary of State's office. The task force is required to  
13 report to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans'  
14 Affairs.

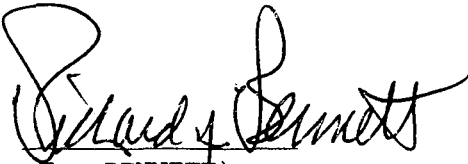
15 This amendment also adds an emergency preamble and clause to  
16 the committee amendment.

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SPONSORED BY:

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(President Pro Tem BENNETT)

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COUNTY: Oxford

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