

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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 bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Establish a Centralized Voter Registration List for the State'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Preamble. Whereas, there currently exists no statewide voter registration list for the State; and

Whereas, voter registration lists for the State are currently maintained by 520 separate municipal jurisdictions in varying forms, including a variety of databases, typed lists and handwritten lists; and

Whereas, the Federal Election Commission in its 1997 Report to Congress on the impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 highly recommends that states that have not yet done so voluntarily develop and implement a statewide computerized voter registration database; ensure that all local registration offices

are computerized; and link their statewide computerized systems, where feasible, with the computerized systems of the collateral public agencies relevant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; and

Whereas, the majority of states have implemented or are currently developing centralized voter registration lists, and Maine is currently one of only 11 states that does not have a centralized voter registration list; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Task force. Resolved: That the Secretary of State appoint a task force to 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;
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 the infrastructure force 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 utilization 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. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall report the findings of the task force by January 15, 2002 to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs. The committee has the authority to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions within

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

2 the Office of the Secretary of State will incur some minor
3 additional costs to appoint a task force to study the
4 requirements necessary to develop and implement a centralized
5 voter registration list. These costs can be absorbed within the
6 bureau's existing budgeted resources.'

8 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment replaces the original bill and creates a
11 resolve that establishes a task force to study implementing a
12 central voting list for the State to be conducted by the
13 Secretary of State. This amendment also adds a fiscal note to
14 the resolve.