

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 770

H.P. 523

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

An Act To Permit Maine Residents To Register To Vote Online

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative RUSSELL of Portland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §131** is enacted to read:

3 **§131. Registration by electronic means**

4 No later than February 1, 2016, the Secretary of State shall implement a system that
5 permits a person who is qualified to register to vote in the State to register to vote
6 electronically on a publicly accessible website administered by the Secretary of State.

7 **1. Electronic voter registration system.** The electronic voter registration system
8 under this section must include:

9 A. A means by which the system accesses driver's license and nondriver
10 identification card data maintained electronically by the Department of the Secretary
11 of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles to facilitate verification of the identity, residency
12 and date of birth of a person seeking to register to vote;

13 B. An electronic voter registration application that requires a person seeking to
14 register to vote to submit the following:

15 (1) The person's name, residence address, date of birth, driver's license or
16 nondriver identification card number and the last 4 digits of the person's social
17 security number;

18 (2) An affidavit that attests to the truth of the information provided by the
19 person; and

20 (3) Permission for the Secretary of State to use the signature from the person's
21 driver's license or nondriver identification card;

22 C. Security measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voter registration
23 applications under paragraph B;

24 D. A manner by which the website informs a person seeking to register to vote of the
25 information required to register to vote electronically and alternative methods for
26 voter registration; and

27 E. Application information or requirements as determined necessary by the Secretary
28 of State and consistent with this chapter.

29 **2. Rules governing electronic voter registration.** The Secretary of State may adopt
30 rules regarding the administration and implementation of the electronic voter registration
31 system under this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical
32 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

33 **3. Electronic voter registration report.** Beginning February 1, 2017, the Secretary
34 of State shall submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
35 having jurisdiction over voter registration matters regarding the implementation of
36 electronic voter registration under this section, including, but not limited to, the number
37 of voter registration applications received and the cost per registration compared to the
38 cost of processing paper voter registration applications.

This subsection is repealed September 30, 2020.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Secretary of State to implement a system that allows a person to register to vote online. The system requires an applicant to provide certain information, which is verified using driver's license or nondriver identification card data maintained by the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles. An applicant must submit an affidavit attesting that all information provided in the electronic voter registration application is true. The bill authorizes the Secretary of State to adopt rules to administer the electronic voter registration system and requires the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over voter registration matters.