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Modernization of the voter registration process to ensure that all citizens who are eligible to vote can exercise that right is essential to keep the public an integral part of the electoral process, and a key component is **Election Day Registration**.

Statistics show that voters are not turning out in the numbers they once did. According to the PEW Research Center, the number of unregistered adults is 22% of the population. To reverse this trend, we must eliminate any and all road blocks to the individual's right to vote. The voters we need to reach are often the young, mobile and/or poor. The Brennan Center for Justice found that "Election Day registration boosts turnout by approximately 5–7 points in those states that allow eligible citizens to register on Election Day—with a decreased dependence on provisional ballots and without any reported increase in voter fraud."

As society and technology changes, it is critical that the voter registration process is modified to accommodate these changes without compromising the integrity of the election process. We have the tools to do this – the central voter registration system will allow registrars to look up who is or is not registered in the state. The bill before you allows Registrars to check with any town when applicants are found to be registered elsewhere and be sure that they have not voted in that town.

Registrars are already required by statute to be in the office during the election – registering voters on Election Day is a natural extension of our job. Further, the deadline for voter registration was developed to ensure that Registrars had enough time to prepare the voter registration lists. With the central voter registration system, lists can be printed easily and quickly.

The bottom line is that voting is a right – not a privilege. As elected members of state and local government, we have the privilege to serve all the voters; the rules adopted by government should ensure maximum participation by eliminating artificial barriers to voter registration.