

Government Administration and Elections Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7245
AN ACT CONCERNING A DEADLINE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESSES AT CERTAIN STATE
Title: AGENCIES.
Vote Date: 3/26/2025
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/24/2025
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Administration and Elections Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would require the Department of Motor Vehicles, voter registration agencies – public assistance offices, agencies that assist people with disabilities, public libraries, and other agencies as designated by the Secretary of the State – and public institutions of higher education to implement automatic voter registration protocols upon penalty of a \$5,000 per day fine. Increasing voter registration and constituent participation has long been an important aspect of promoting civic participation, and automatic voter registration processes ensure that individuals who would not otherwise register to vote do so. This bill looks to ensure that certain state agencies implement these processes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Office of the Secretary of the State, Secretary of the State, Stephanie Thomas: Sec. Thomas explained that while she supports the push for automatic voter registration (AVR), this bill lacks the nuance needed to address the complex reasons for which it has not been implemented. She noted that the implementation of AVR has so far been hindered by a lack of funding and technical limitations, problems that this bill does not address. She requested that the committee provide the necessary staffing and funding to support AVR and remove the Department of Motor Vehicles from this bill, as they already conduct AVR.

Department of Motor Vehicles, Commissioner, Antonio Guerrero: Comm'r. Guerrero expressed his concerns about this bill on behalf of the Department of Motor Vehicles. He

explained that the DMV has worked very closely with the Secretary of the State to successfully implement its voter registration protocols and noted that statutory changes could throw a wrench in the process. He requested that the committee either remove the language referencing the DMV or oppose the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Tom Swan, Executive Director, Connecticut Citizen Action Group: Mr. Swan expressed his support for this bill and his belief that the implementation of automatic voter registration has lost some of its momentum.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

The following expressed uncharacterized support:

Linda Dalessio
Beverly Allen

Reported by: Sam Sims

Date: April 2, 2025