

HB4834 (Chapter 205 of 2018) - An Act automatically registering eligible voters and enhancing safeguards against fraud

Sponsor: Conference Committee

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Related Bills: HB4671

Summary:

Establishes a system for automatically registering certain categories of voters. Registration agencies required to provide voter registration services (by 52 U.S.C. §§20504 & 20506) are to conduct voter registration in a manner that is as automated as practicable. To do so, registration agencies are to transmit each completed affidavit of voter registration to the Board of Registrars or Election Commission of the city or town where the registrant resides. In turn, the State Secretary is to enter into cooperative agreements with the Registry of Motor Vehicles and MassHealth to serve as automatic voter registration agencies; the Secretary may also enter into cooperative agreements with state agencies that provide public assistance or services to people with disabilities. Each eligible applicant for services at an automatic voter registration agency who does not decline to do so is to be registered as a voter.

The State Secretary is also to enter into an agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center that specifies the terms and conditions of the Commonwealth's membership. The bill also broadens early voting procedures, criminalizes providing false information in connection with automatic voter registration, and amends provisions of the address confidentiality program (used in cases of domestic violence) to establish that a program participant may register to vote as a confidential voter.

The new text also submits new language requiring the registry of motor vehicles and other state agencies to provide data to the secretary of state in order to maintain accurate voter lists. Requires electronic submission of the listed data every two months.

(New draft of HB4671. The new draft submits the recommendations of the Conference Committee appointed to remedy differences regarding acceptance of proposed floor amendments by the Senate. The new draft requires any automatic voter registration agency that collects and transmits applicant data electronically to transmit the data to the state secretary, who shall in turn transmit the data to the municipal board of registrars or election commission where an applicant resides. The new language additionally adds the division of medical assistance and commonwealth health insurance connector authority as automatic voter registration agencies, and regulates the content of memoranda of understanding between them and the secretary of state. Finally, the new text requires any agencies acting as automatic voter agencies to provide notice to applicants of their automatic voter registration unless they specifically decline.)

Filed Text PDF:	http://instatrac.com/MA/2017_2018/pdfs/HB4834.FIL.pdf
Citations:	MGL 9A:2, MGL 50, MGL 50:1, MGL 51, MGL 51:4, MGL 51:42, MGL 51:44, MGL 51:47C, MGL 56:8, MGL 93H:3; MGL 51:65 MGL 9A MGL 9A:8
Categories:	Business; Business - Consumer Protection; Crimes; Public Safety; State Government; State Government - Election Laws; State Government - Public Records;
Intro Date:	2018-07-27
Progress:	Passed Into Law
Status:	Signed by the Governor (SIGNED)
Last Action:	08/09/18 - G - Signed by the Governor
Complete History:	<p>07/27/18 - H - Conference committee report submitted - see HB4671</p> <p>07/27/18 - H - Referred to House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling</p> <p>07/27/18 - H - Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session</p> <p>07/27/18 - H - House Session (7/27/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)</p> <p>07/27/18 - H - Conference committee report accepted (134/16)</p> <p>07/27/18 - H - House Session (7/30/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)</p> <p>07/30/18 - S - Conference committee report accepted (36/0)</p> <p>07/30/18 - H - Emergency preamble adopted (18/0)</p> <p>07/30/18 - S - Emergency preamble adopted (14/0)</p> <p>07/30/18 - H - Enacted in the House</p> <p>07/30/18 - S - Enacted in the Senate</p> <p>07/30/18 - G - Laid before the Governor</p> <p>07/30/18 - H - House Session (7/31/18 12:00 PM House Chamber)</p> <p>08/09/18 - G - Signed by the Governor</p>