

JAN 17 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the participation of
2 eligible voters in elections is vital to American democracy.
3 More than fifty-one million eligible citizens nationwide remain
4 unregistered to vote, one in eight voter registration records
5 contain a serious error, and many voter registration systems
6 remain inefficient and largely based on outdated technology.

7 The Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC, is
8 a nonprofit organization that was formed in 2012 to help states
9 improve the accuracy of voter registration rolls by using secure
10 data-matching tools. ERIC uses the voter registration rolls of
11 member states and several other databases, such as driver's
12 licensing records, Social Security Administration records, and
13 the United States Postal Service's national change of address
14 registry to compare voting lists. Twenty states and the
15 District of Columbia now participate in ERIC and receive, as
16 member states, reports that show voters who have moved within
17 the respective states, voters who have moved out of the state,



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1 voters with duplicate registrations within the state, voters who
2 have passed away, and individuals who are potentially eligible
3 to vote and have not yet registered to vote.

4 The legislature further finds that many persons reside in
5 Hawaii on a part-time basis. This mobile population may be
6 registered to vote in more than one state due to outdated
7 registration records, thus challenging the accuracy of Hawaii's
8 and other states' voter registration rolls. Accordingly, the
9 legislature finds that modernizing Hawaii's system of verifying
10 voter registration data is essential to ensuring the integrity
11 of Hawaii's voter registration rolls.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require:

- 13 (1) The office of elections to join the Electronic
14 Registration Information Center; and
15 (2) The State and each county to use the Electronic
16 Registration Information Center to verify their voter
17 rolls.

18 SECTION 2. No later than May 8, 2020, the office of
19 elections shall join the Electronic Registration Information
20 Center. The office of elections shall share with each county
21 the information and services provided by the Electronic



1 Registration Information Center pursuant to terms of the
2 office's membership agreement with that organization.

3 The office of elections and each county office that
4 administers elections shall use information and services
5 provided by the Electronic Registration Information Center to
6 verify their respective voter registration rolls.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the
10 office of elections to join the Electronic Registration
11 Information Center.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
13 elections for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. Beginning prior to fiscal year 2020-2021, the
15 office of elections shall request as part of its annual budget
16 an appropriation from the legislature to pay annual dues for
17 Hawaii's participation in the Electronic Registration
18 Information Center.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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AKS



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Report Title:

Voter Registration; Verification; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the office of elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center and share information with counties to encourage voter participation and ensure integrity of voter registration rolls. Appropriates moneys.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

