

Subject Automatic Voter Registration; Preregistration

Authors Bahner

Analyst Matt Gehring

Date March 4, 2020

## Overview

This bill establishes a system of automatic voter registration, and permits individuals who are at least 16 years of age to preregister to vote if they will otherwise be eligible to vote upon turning age 18.

## Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

1	<b>Preregistration.</b>
---	-------------------------

Permits an individual who is otherwise qualified to register to vote, but who is less than 18 years of age, to preregister upon reaching 16 years of age. The preregistration would be automatically updated to an active registration at the time the person reaches 18 years of age.

2	<b>Automatic voter registration.</b>
---	--------------------------------------

Authorizes individuals to be automatically registered to vote following procedures established later in the bill.

3	<b>Form.</b>
---	--------------

Updates the voter registration form to reflect the authorization of individuals age 16 or older to preregister to vote.

4	<b>Automatic voter registration.</b>
---	--------------------------------------

Establishes procedures to automatically register individuals to vote.

**Subd. 1. Identification of United States citizens.** Requires individuals appearing at an office of the Department of Public Safety or a deputy registrar to be confirmed in the department's database as meeting the citizenship requirement for eligibility to vote, if they provide documentation of their citizenship as part of their transaction.

**Subd. 2. Transfer of information for eligible applicants.** Requires the Department of Public Safety to provide the secretary of state with information

**Section** **Description**

---

necessary to determine a person's eligibility to vote, on a daily basis. The information provided must reflect those who are confirmed as a citizen in the department's database, who are not registered, and who are of sufficient age to register or preregister.

**Subd. 3. Transfer of data from secretary of state to county auditor.** Requires the secretary of state to provide appropriate information to the county auditor of the county where a person resides, if that person is determined to be eligible to vote. Information must not be transmitted if a person is determined to be ineligible. The secretary must provide a notice to those who are not eligible to register.

**Subd. 4. Registration receipt; opportunity to decline.** Establishes procedures that permit a person to decline to be automatically registered to vote by returning a declination form to the Department of Public Safety or deputy registrar following the person's licensing transaction, or to the county auditor where the person resides.

**Subd. 5. Change or confirmation of address.** Establishes procedures to automatically update or confirm the address of persons who are already registered or preregistered to vote at the time of their transaction with the Department of Public Safety or deputy registrar.

**Subd. 6. Automatic registration at other agencies.** Authorizes automatic registration and preregistration at any state, tribal, or local government agency that collects sufficient information to identify those who interact with the agency that may be eligible to vote. Automatic registration at these agencies may only occur upon authorization by the secretary of state. The procedures for registering eligible persons must be established by agreement between the agency and the secretary of state, and must follow the procedures otherwise established in this section, to the extent practicable.

Agencies that do not collect sufficient information to determine a person's eligibility may collect and electronically transmit appropriate information to the secretary of state.

**Subd. 7. Data security.** Requires the secretary of state to provide adequate technological security measures to prevent unauthorized access to the statewide voter registration list, including adequate and reasonable requirements for the exchange or transfer of data between the secretary and source agencies.

**Subd. 8. Required report.** Requires the secretary of state to produce an annual report detailing certain voter registration statistics. A copy of the report must be submitted to the legislature by January 15 of each year.

Section	Description
	<b>Subd. 9. Penalties.</b> Clarifies the application of certain penalties in the event a person who is ineligible to vote is registered under the process established by this section.
5	<b>Moved within state.</b> Establishes standards that limit the designation of a voter's registration record as "inactive" if it the voter's address has been confirmed or changed following the automatic registration procedures established earlier in the bill.
6	<b>Moved out of state.</b> Establishes standards that limit the designation of a voter's registration record as "inactive" if it the voter's address has been confirmed or changed following the automatic registration procedures established earlier in the bill.
7	<b>Challenges.</b> Establishes standards that limit the designation of a voter's registration record as "inactive" if it the voter's address has been confirmed or changed following the automatic registration procedures established earlier in the bill.
8	<b>Driver's license and identification card applications.</b> Provides conforming references to reflect the automatic registration process established earlier in the bill. This section also clarifies that the requirement that an applicant for a driver's license or identification card does not need to be asked about voter registration if the applicant provided a document that demonstrates a lack of United States citizenship at the time of the transaction.
9	<b>Posting voting history; failure to vote; registration removed.</b> Establishes standards that limit the designation of a voter's registration record as "inactive" if, in the previous five years, the voter was automatically registered to vote, or if the voter's address has been confirmed or changed following the automatic registration procedures established earlier in the bill.



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | 600 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155