



TO: The Honorable Craig Hickman  
The Honorable Laura Supica, Co-Chairs  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: February 6, 2023

RE: LD 237 An Act to Require Persons who register to vote to submit a voter registration update every four years.

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My name is Janet Williams. I'm a volunteer member of the League of Women Voters of Maine and a resident of Jefferson. The League does not support LD 237.

The League has been celebrating and protecting the right to vote for 100 years. Improving voter turnout and removing barriers to voting are goals that we work towards, as well as for efficiency in government.

Two recently implemented administrative developments make LD 237 unnecessary and a duplicative burden for voters.

Maine has joined the Electronic Voter Registration for Member States (ERIC) service whose purpose is to assist states to insure the accuracy of their voter registration lists. Thirty-three states subscribe to ERIC. The voter lists are compared for duplicate entries, alerting their members to possible address changes of voters. These lists are processed every 60 days.

Maine is also in the process of implementing Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) which allows voters to automatically register during the motor vehicle transaction. Drivers must renew their licenses every 6 years or earlier if they change their names, their corrective lens status, or their addresses. Address changes must be made to the BMV within 30 days after changing addresses. These changes must be made with proof of residency and proof of identity. Those under 21, must renew their driver's licenses every two years.

These administrative processes preclude the need for individual voters to renew their voter registrations every four years, which is placing an undue and redundant burden on voters and on election officials.