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## Legislative Activity

### VOTER ID

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** The House of Representatives Election Law Committee voted to pass SB 3. Proponents say the bill clarifies the definition of domicile for voting purposes to protect election integrity in New Hampshire. The bill mandates that anyone who registers to vote either prior to or on Election Day itself present definitive proof that they reside in the Granite State. People who fail to provide such identification could still vote, but would be required to read and sign a form, and then provide proof of domicile to city and town clerks within 10 days of voting, or 30 days for towns where offices are only open once a week

<http://www.nh1.com/news/nh-house-committee-recommends-passage-of-bill-requiring-strict-voter-identification/#.WRzIpNEYnUo.twitter>

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** A bill requiring proof of residency gets one step closer to Governor Sununu. People who show up to the polls to register and don't have a utility bill, a lease, a car registration or other documentation could still vote. But they have to sign a form pledging to return with a required form of proof. Should a voter not return within 30 days, election officials have authority to investigate suspected fraud.

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/sb-3-clears-key-house-committee-in-partisan-vote-10062075>

**OHIO:** Representative Greenspan sponsored HB 222 that amends the voter ID law to specify that a concealed handgun license would qualify as photo identification for voting purposes.

<http://www.cqstatetrack.com/taxis/redirect?id=591cf21554a>

### FELON VOTING

**ALABAMA:** HB232, the Felony Voter Disqualification Act sponsored by Representative Jones, would establish a comprehensive list of felonies that involve moral turpitude which disqualify a person from exercising his or her right to vote.

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/ALISON/SearchableInstruments/2017RS/PrintFiles/HB282-enr.pdf>

### AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

**ILLINOIS:** The House is expected to amend an automatic voter registration bill to address elections board concerns. A similar measure passed onto the governor's desk last year but was vetoed, with Gov. Bruce Rauner offering up suggestions to make it comply with federal law and to combat potential voter fraud. The new bill addresses some of the suggestions but there are still concerns from the Illinois State Board of Elections.

[https://www.ilnews.org/news/state\\_politics/illinois-house-expected-to-amend-automatic-voter-registration-bill-to/article\\_9e2ae770-3403-11e7-a30e-d71f95ff1010.html](https://www.ilnews.org/news/state_politics/illinois-house-expected-to-amend-automatic-voter-registration-bill-to/article_9e2ae770-3403-11e7-a30e-d71f95ff1010.html)

**ILLINOIS:** The Senate approved automatic voter registration. Sen. Andy Manar, the bill's main sponsor, said one of the changes made to the new bill was addressing the Secretary of State's concerns regarding implementation of the federal 2005 Real ID Act, ensuring that the state will know if a citizen is qualified for automatic voting registration. The Act has tougher requirements for proof of legal U.S. residency in order for a citizen's driver's license to be valid. The Secretary of State believes Illinois will be Real ID-compliant by 2018. <http://www.sj-r.com/news/20170505/illinois-senate-oks-automatic-voter-registration>

### **ABSENTEE MAIL BALLOTS**

**WASHINGTON:** The law, sponsored by Republican Sen. Kirk Pearson, of Monroe, requires at least one ballot drop box for every 15,000 registered voters in a county with a minimum of one box in each city, town, and census-designated place with a post office. Gov. Jay Inslee signed it and it takes effect July 23. From the outset, Pearson said the intent of the bill is to make it easier for people in rural areas to vote by ensuring they didn't need to travel extended distances to find a drop box. Another reason is Pearson dislikes the all-mail ballot system and the requirement for a stamp to mail ballots. "We should be making it easier for the citizens of Washington State to vote, not harder," Pearson has said. "It's only fair that every citizen should have an opportunity to drop their ballot off rather than mail it in."

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/new-law-to-incite-proliferation-of-ballot-drop-boxes/>

### **STRAIGHT-PARTY VOTING**

**TEXAS:** The Senate gave initial approval to legislation that would eliminate straight-ticket voting in all elections. By a vote of 20-10, senators passed House Bill 25 over objections from Democrats who warned of unintended consequences. The legislation's backers argue it shows that every race matters and would bring Texas in line with at least 40 other states that do not allow straight-ticket voting, the option for voters to automatically cast their ballot for every candidate from a single party. Straight-ticket ballots made up nearly 64 percent of total votes cast in the state's 10 largest counties in 2016.

[https://www.texastribune.org/2017/05/17/texas-senate-tentatively-approves-straight-ticket-voting-ban/?utm\\_campaign=trib-social-buttons&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social](https://www.texastribune.org/2017/05/17/texas-senate-tentatively-approves-straight-ticket-voting-ban/?utm_campaign=trib-social-buttons&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social)

### **RANKED CHOICE VOTING**

**UTAH:** Legislators and county clerks wrestled over whether to pursue "ranked-choice voting," sometimes called instant runoff voting, to help ensure that election winners are actually supported by a majority of voters. In such a system, voters rank their first, second, third, etc. choices. If no one achieves a majority initially, the lowest-vote-receiving candidate would be eliminated. Supporters of that eliminated candidate would have votes shifted to their second choice. The process would repeat until someone wins a majority.

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/5301655-155/legislators-county-clerks-tussle-over-ranked-choice#sthash.WL6KdY32.uxf>

### **ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

**Washington D.C:** The District will spend \$3 million to remove ineligible names, including those of dead people, from voter rolls.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-to-spend-3-million-to-get-names-of-dead-people-other-errors-off-city-voter-rolls/2017/05/16/f80145f2-3a5f-11e7-a058-ddbb23c75d82\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.3d6840a2e517](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-to-spend-3-million-to-get-names-of-dead-people-other-errors-off-city-voter-rolls/2017/05/16/f80145f2-3a5f-11e7-a058-ddbb23c75d82_story.html?utm_term=.3d6840a2e517)