

Act No. 80 (H.458). Elections; voter registration; motor vehicle applications; automatic registration; early voter absentee ballots; vote tabulators

An act relating to automatic voter registration through motor vehicle driver's license applications

On the effective date of July 1, 2017, this act will automatically register to vote individuals who apply for, or renew, a motor vehicle driver's license or nondriver identification card. An individual may decline to use the application or renewal for voter registration purposes. This act includes requirements for ensuring confidentiality of an individual's decision whether or not to register and for ensuring compliance with Vermont's Safe at Home provisions.

This act also requires the Secretary of State to consult with the Office of the Attorney General to examine ways in which to register persons 16 years of age who will be 18 years of age on or before the next general election and to report to the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations on or before January 15, 2017.

Finally, on the effective date of January 1, 2017, this act will allow a town using a vote tabulator to deposit early voter absentee ballots into the vote tabulator on the day preceding the election. Currently, early voter absentee ballots must be processed and deposited on election day. This act includes requirements regarding notice, inspection, processing, and security of the early voter absentee ballots. The act permits the Secretary of State to adopt rules to implement this provision.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on April 28, 2016