

1 H.458

2 Introduced by Representative Pearson of Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Elections; voter registration; motor vehicle applications; automatic
6 registration

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to automatically
8 send a motor vehicle driver's license application to the Secretary of State for
9 voter registration purposes.

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

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2145a is amended to read:

14 § 2145a. REGISTRATIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR

15 VEHICLES

16 (a) An application for, or renewal of, a motor vehicle driver's license shall
17 serve as a simultaneous application to register to vote unless the applicant
18 ~~declines to sign the voter registration portion of the application~~ checks the box
19 on the application designating that he or she declines to use the application as a
20 voter registration application.

1 (b)(1) ~~The voter registration portion of the~~ motor vehicle driver's license
2 application shall provide and request the following information; ~~required to be~~
3 ~~provided under section 2145 of this title and shall be in the form approved by~~
4 ~~the Secretary of State.~~

5 (A) The applicant's citizenship.

6 (B) The applicant's age.

7 (C) The applicant's place and date of birth.

8 (D) The applicant's town of legal residence.

9 (E) The applicant's street address or a description of the physical
10 location of the applicant's residence. The description must contain sufficient
11 information so that the town clerk can determine whether the applicant is a
12 resident of the town.

13 (F) The voter's oath and a space for a person administering the
14 voter's oath to another to execute the written notification required by section
15 2124 of this title. The oath shall be preceded by the following statement
16 "Every voter must take the voter's oath before voting for the first time in
17 Vermont. You can attest for yourself that you have taken the oath or you can
18 have any person over 18 attest that you have taken the oath."

19 (G) The applicant's e-mail address, which shall be optional to
20 provide.

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Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2145 is amended to read:

§ 2145. APPLICATION FORMS

(a) The voter registration application shall be in the form approved by the Federal Election Commission or by the Secretary of State. The application form approved by the Secretary shall include:

* * *

(4) The following statements:

(A) “If you were ~~provided with this form when you applied for, or renewed, a motor vehicle driver’s license or were provided with this~~ application form by a voter registration agency, you may decline to register. If you decline to register, your failure to register will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.”

(B) “If you are submitting this application ~~in connection with a motor vehicle driver’s license application, or renewal, or~~ through a voter registration agency, the office through which you submitted this application will remain confidential and will be used only for voter registration purposes.”

~~(5) The following statement on applications provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles: “Keep this receipt and take it to the polls when you go to vote. This is proof you submitted an application before the deadline for registration.”~~ [Repealed.]

1 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 603(a)(4) is added to read:

2 (4) Any new or renewal application form shall provide for and request
3 the information required in 17 V.S.A. § 2145a.

4 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.