

1 H.860

2 Introduced by Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of
3 Randolph, Keefe of Manchester, Lefebvre of Newark, Parent of
4 St. Albans Town, Sullivan of Dorset, and Troiano of Stannard

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Elections; qualification and registration of voters; hunting, fishing, or
8 trapping license

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a
10 person to register to vote and update his or her voter registration information
11 through a hunting, fishing, or trapping license application.

12 An act relating to registering to vote through a hunting, fishing, or trapping
13 license application

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

15 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2145d is added to read:

16 § 2145d. REGISTRATIONS THROUGH HUNTING, FISHING, OR

17 TRAPPING LICENSE APPLICATIONS

18 (a) An application for a hunting, fishing, or trapping license shall serve as a
19 simultaneous application to register to vote if the applicant completes and signs
20 the portion of the application reserved for voter registration.

1 (b)(1) A hunting, fishing, or trapping license application shall provide and
2 request in the voter registration portion the following information, which shall
3 be in the form approved by the Secretary of State:

4 (A) The applicant's citizenship.

5 (B) The applicant's place and date of birth.

6 (C) The applicant's town of legal residence.

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

11 (E) The voter's oath.

12 (F) The applicant's e-mail address, which shall be optional to
13 provide.

14 (2) A hunting, fishing, or trapping license application shall provide in
15 the voter registration portion the following statements:

16 (A) "By signing and submitting this portion of the application, you
17 are authorizing the Department of Fish and Wildlife to transmit this application
18 to the Secretary of State for voter registration purposes. YOU MAY
19 DECLINE TO REGISTER. Both the office through which you submit this
20 application and your decision of whether or not to register will remain
21 confidential and will be used for voter registration purposes only."

1 (B) “In order to be registered to vote, you must: (1) be a U.S. citizen;
2 (2) be a resident of Vermont; (3) have taken the voter’s oath; and
3 (4) be 18 years of age or older. Any person meeting the requirements of
4 (1)-(3) who will be 18 years of age on or before the date of a general election
5 may register and vote in the primary election immediately preceding that
6 general election. By signing and submitting this portion of the application, you
7 are attesting that you meet the requirements to vote.”

8 (3) A hunting, fishing, or trapping license application shall provide in
9 the voter registration portion the penalties provided by law for submission of a
10 false voter registration application and shall require the signature of the
11 applicant, under penalty of perjury.

12 (c) An application for voter registration under this section shall update any
13 previous voter registration by the applicant. Any change of address set forth in
14 the form submitted to the Department of Fish and Wildlife shall serve to
15 update voter registration information previously provided by the voter, unless
16 the voter states on the form that the change of address is not for voter
17 registration purposes.

18 (d)(1) The Department of Fish and Wildlife shall transmit voter registration
19 applications received under this section to the Secretary of State not later than
20 five days after the date the application was accepted by the Department or
21 before the date of any primary or general election, whichever is sooner.

1 (2) The Department shall not transmit hunting, fishing, or trapping
2 applications if the applicant has not signed the voter registration portion.

3 (3) The Department shall ensure confidentiality of records as required
4 by subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section.

5 (e)(1) The Secretary of State shall promptly transmit applications received
6 under this section to the clerks of the appropriate municipalities.

7 (2) In transmitting applications, the Secretary shall ensure compliance
8 with the requirements of 15 V.S.A. chapter 21, subchapter 3.

9 (f) A person who makes a false statement in completing the voter
10 registration portion of a hunting, fishing, or trapping license application
11 knowing the statement to be false shall be subject to the penalties of perjury as
12 provided in 13 V.S.A. § 2901.

13 (g) The Secretary of State shall take appropriate measures to educate the
14 public about voter registration under this section.

15 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE; UPDATE OF

16 HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING LICENSE APPLICATIONS

17 The Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife shall consult with the Secretary of
18 State and update the Department of Fish and Wildlife's hunting, fishing, and
19 trapping license applications in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 1 of this
20 act, and shall begin issuing those applications on the effective date of Sec. 1.

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

2 (a) Sec. 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2019.

3 (b) Sec. 2 and this section shall take effect on passage.