

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB661

Hearing Date: Thursday January 23, 2014
Committee On: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs
Introducer: Krist
One Liner: Provide for voter registration on the Secretary of State's website and use of Department of Motor Vehicle records

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Avery, Bloomfield, Garrett, Karpisek, Scheer, Wallman
Nay:	1	Senator Murante
Absent:	1	Senator Lautenbaugh
Present Not Voting:		

Proponents:

Senator Bob Krist
John Gale
Adam Morfeld
Jack Gould
Rebecca Gonzales
Sandra Stelling
Wayne Bena

Representing:

Introducer
Secretary of State
Nebraskans for Civic Reform
Common Cause Nebraska
Nebraska Appleseed
Clerks/Register of Deeds/Election Commissioners
Sarpy County Election Commission

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Rhonda Lahm

Representing:

Department of Motor Vehicles

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 661 requires the Secretary of State to develop and implement a statewide registration application process on or before July 1, 2015 to register to vote and update voter registration records electronically using the Secretary of State's website.

An applicant who has a driver's license or state identification card may use the electronic application process to register or update his or her registration. The Secretary of State will obtain a copy of the electronic representation of the applicant's signature from the Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) records of his or her driver's license or state identification card for voter registration purposes.

An applicant who submits his or her application electronically agrees to the use of his or her signature from the DMV. To vote on Election Day, the completed application must be submitted on or before the third Friday before the election. This date is similar to other registration deadlines in the Election Act.

The bill also requires the DMV, in conjunction with the Secretary of State, to develop and implement a process to electronically transmit voter registration application information to the election commissioner or county clerk of the

county where the applicant resides.

Finally, the DMV will furnish social security numbers to the Secretary of State for purposes of the Election Act. The DMV will also release digital signatures to the Secretary of State for the purposes of voter registration. No employee or official from the Secretary of State's office will release a digital signature except to law enforcement or a driver licensing agency of another state.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment clarifies how and when the Department of Motor Vehicles will electronically transmit voter registration application materials to the election commissioners and county clerks.

With the amendment, the current system of delivering voter registration application materials to the election commissioner or county clerk will be used until the implementation date designated by the Director of Motor Vehicles. The implementation date will be on or before January 1, 2016.

After the new process is implemented, the voter registration application materials will be transmitted electronically to the election commissioners and county clerks. It will be transmitted not later than 10 days after receipt.

Each voter registration application electronically submitted will include information provided by the applicant that includes whether the applicant is a citizen, whether the applicant is of sufficient age, the applicant's address, date of birth, party affiliation or an indication the applicant is not affiliated with a party, the applicant's motor vehicle operator's license number, previous registration location, and the applicant's signature.

The committee amendment also eliminates references to county treasurers and license examiners from the Department of Motor vehicles as persons who process voter registration application materials.

Bill Avery, Chairperson