

HB 521-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0052

07/08

HOUSE BILL ***521-FN***

AN ACT authorizing online voter registration.

SPONSORS: Rep. M. Paige, Rock. 11; Rep. Lane, Merr. 16; Rep. Muns, Rock. 29; Rep. Read,
Rock. 10; Rep. Ebel, Merr. 7

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes online voter registration.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT authorizing online voter registration.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Online Voter Registration. Amend RSA 654 by inserting after section 7-
2 c the following new section:

3 654:7-d Online Voter Registration.

4 I. Beginning July 1, 2025, a person may register to vote by submitting an online
5 voter registration application in accordance with this section.

6 II. The secretary of state shall establish a secure Internet website to permit an
7 applicant to:

8 (a) Submit an online voter registration form.

9 (b) Submit information necessary to establish an applicant's qualifications to
10 vote, pursuant to RSA 654:12.

11 (c) Swear to the oath required by RSA 654:7.

12 III. The secretary of state shall establish appropriate technological security
13 measures, including use of a unique identifier for each applicant, to prevent unauthorized
14 persons from altering a voter's registration information.

15 IV.(a) No person without an identification issued by the New Hampshire
16 department of safety, division of motor vehicles shall be able to register through the online
17 voter registration system.

18 (b) The department of safety, division of motor vehicles shall provide the online
19 voter registration application system all information necessary to effectuate the provisions
20 of this section.

21 (c) The online voter registration application form shall require a valid electronic
22 mail address for the voter in order to complete the online voter registration application.

23 (d) The online voter registration application system shall include a disclaimer to
24 the applicant of possible criminal liability pursuant to paragraph XI.

25 V.(a) The online voter registration application system shall compare the New
26 Hampshire driver's license number or New Hampshire nondriver's picture identification
27 number submitted pursuant to this section with information maintained by the department
28 of safety, division of motor vehicles, to confirm that the name and date of birth on the

1 application are consistent with the records of the department of safety, division of motor
2 vehicles.

3 (b) If the applicant's name and date of birth are consistent with the records of
4 the department of safety, division of motor vehicles, the online voter registration
5 application system shall transmit, using the statewide centralized voter registration
6 database maintained pursuant to RSA 654:45, the applicant's submission, including the
7 digital signature of the applicant, to the appropriate supervisors of the checklist to add the
8 applicant's name to the checklist. The applicant's digital signature shall satisfy the
9 signature requirement of RSA 654:7, IV. The applicant shall be required to submit an
10 original signature to the supervisors of the checklist prior to voting in the first election after
11 registering online. An online registrant shall not be eligible to receive an absentee ballot
12 until his or her original signature is on file with the supervisors of the checklist.

13 (c) If the applicant's name, last 4 digits of his or her social security number,
14 citizenship, legal and/or physical mailing addresses, and date of birth cannot be verified by
15 the records of the department of safety, division of motor vehicles, or the applicant
16 indicated that he or she has not been issued a New Hampshire driver's license or New
17 Hampshire nondriver's picture identification card, the online voter registration application
18 system shall notify the applicant by electronic mail that his or her online voter registration
19 was ineffective and inform the applicant of alternative methods of registration.

20 VI. Upon submission of a completed online voter registration application, the
21 website shall generate an electronic confirmation that the supervisors of the checklist have
22 received the application and shall provide instructions regarding the ability of an applicant
23 to check the status of the application. Once the supervisors of the checklist have added the
24 applicant to the checklist, the applicant shall be notified by electronic mail, including
25 information about where the applicant is registered to vote.

26 VII. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the supervisor of elections shall
27 process the application pursuant to RSA 654:13.

28 VIII. If a person submits an application pursuant to the provisions of this section
29 after the 10th day before an election, the applicant shall not be added to the checklist until
30 the day after the election. The supervisors of the checklist may contact such applicant,
31 either by telephone or mail, in order to inform the applicant of the effect of the late-received
32 application and the ability of the person to register in person on election day.

33 IX. The online voter registration system shall conform to nationally accepted
34 standards for accessibility for individuals with disabilities such as section 508 of the

1 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, section 255 of the Communications Act, and the Web Content
2 Accessibility Guidelines of the World Wide Web Consortium to ensure equal access to voters
3 with disabilities.

4 X. With the exception of the requirement that no person without an identification
5 issued by the New Hampshire department of safety, division of motor vehicles shall be able
6 to register, no legal distinction shall be made between online registration under this section
7 and registration in person, by mail, or other methods provided by general law.

8 XI. A person using the online voter registration application system to register to
9 vote using any name other than his or her own shall be considered to have violated RSA
10 659:34.

11 2 Centralized Voter Registration Database. Amend RSA 654:45, I (a) to read as follows:

12 I.(a) The secretary of state is authorized to plan, develop, equip, establish, site, and
13 maintain a statewide centralized voter registration database and communications system,
14 hereinafter referred to as the voter database, connecting users throughout the state. The
15 voter database shall include the current information on the voter registration forms, the
16 accepted absentee ballot applications, the voter checklists, and voter actions as recorded on
17 the marked checklist maintained by each city, ward, and town in the state, ***including in***
18 ***accordance with the provisions and authority in RSA 654:7-d.*** The database shall
19 maintain addresses in accordance with United States Postal Service standardized
20 addresses as described in the current USPS Publication 28.

21 3 Funding of Implementation. The department of state shall fund the implementation
22 of this act when general fund appropriations are made for that purpose to the department
23 of state.

24 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

HB 521-FN- FISCAL NOTE
 AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT authorizing online voter registration.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000 for new system plus position cost of \$76,000	\$226,000	\$228,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill authorizes online voter registration and directs the Secretary of State (SOS) to establish a secure website for the process. Only individuals with identification issued by the Department of Safety will be eligible to register online.

The Department of State indicates that the Division of Motor Vehicles must provide the SOS with all necessary information to implement the online voter registration system. To create this new system, the SOS would need to develop a request for proposals (RFP), work with the selected vendor to design, build, and test the system, and collaborate with local election officials and new registrants on how to use it.

The Department of State estimates that the implementation process will take 12 months, with startup costs ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000 in General Fund expenditures. Additionally, ongoing maintenance costs are estimated at approximately \$150,000 per year.

Furthermore, to manage increased responsibilities such as responding to voter questions and training election officials, the Department estimates the need for a new Administrative Secretary, resulting in an estimated increase in expenditures of \$76,000 in FY 2026, \$76,000 in FY 2027, and \$78,000 in FY 2028.

While the bill specifies that General Funds should be used to create the new system, no specific appropriation is made.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of State