

HB 1678-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3200

08/06

HOUSE BILL ***1678-FN***

AN ACT requiring the secretary of state to accept voter registration forms directly from voters and to create an online portal for direct voter registration.

SPONSORS: Rep. Long, Hills. 26; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill allows for qualified voters to register to vote directly with the secretary of state. This bill also requires the secretary of state to create an online portal for direct 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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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-Six

AN ACT requiring the secretary of state to accept voter registration forms directly from voters and to create an online portal for direct voter registration.

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

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

3 654:7-d Direct and Online Voter Registration.

4 I. Beginning January 1, 2026, any person qualified to register to vote under RSA 654:1 may
5 submit a completed voter registration form and supporting documentation directly to the secretary of
6 state. The secretary of state shall forward all such registration materials to the appropriate town or
7 city clerk based on the applicant's domicile for processing and inclusion on the checklist in
8 accordance with RSA 654:25.

9 II. By January 1, 2028, the secretary of state shall establish and maintain a secure online
10 portal through which qualified individuals may submit voter registration forms and supporting
11 documentation electronically. The portal shall:

12 (a) Allow for the secure upload of documents demonstrating identity, age, citizenship,
13 and domicile as required under RSA 654:12;

14 (b) Provide confirmation of receipt to the applicant; and

15 (c) Transmit completed applications and documentation to the appropriate municipality
16 for verification and checklist inclusion.

17 III. The secretary of state shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to implement the provisions of
18 this section, including standards for document security, data transmission, and verification
19 procedures.

20 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1678-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT requiring the secretary of state to accept voter registration forms directly from voters and to create an online portal for direct voter registration.

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

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$637,000	\$161,000	\$165,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund/Election 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 allows voters to register directly with the Secretary of State and requires the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a secure online portal through which qualified individuals may submit voter registration forms and supporting documentation electronically.

The Department of State indicates that in order to accept and forward voter registrations to local supervisors of the checklist, the Secretary of State's Office would require one additional Records Control Clerk (see cost breakdown in the table below) and anticipates an additional \$10,000 annually in postage expenses.

The Department also estimates the cost of developing a secure online voter registration portal at \$426,000 in FY 2027, with ongoing maintenance costs ranging from \$40,000 to \$84,000 per year. Additionally, a one-time cost of \$90,000 is projected for extensive training of clerks and supervisors, as well as for hiring temporary education consultants to assist voters and election officials during the portal's initial six months of operation. Funding may be available through the Election Fund, depending on the outcome of other legislation; otherwise, the Department would need to request General Funds.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT (ROUNDED)			
	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029

Records Control Clerk (Salary, Benefits, and Other Costs)	\$69,000	\$67,000	\$71,000
Online Portal (Design, Build, and Testing)	\$426,000	\$0	\$0
Online Portal Maintenance Fees	\$42,000 (6 months)	\$84,000	\$84,000
Education Consulting Staff/Training	\$90,000	\$0	\$0
Postage	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total Estimated Cost	\$637,000	\$161,000	\$165,000

Finally, although the bill permits voter registration through the Secretary of State beginning January 1, 2026, the Department states this implementation timeline is not feasible.

It is assumed that any fiscal impact would occur after FY 2026.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of State