

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014**

S. B. No. 146

Senator Turner

Cosponsors: Senators Sawyer, Kearney

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To amend section 4501.023 of the Revised Code to 1
revise the requirements for the Bureau of Motor 2
Vehicles voter registration training program and 3
to create the Motor Voter Act Study Committee. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 4501.023 of the Revised Code be 5
amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 4501.023. (A) The registrar of motor vehicles shall 7
designate an employee of the bureau of motor vehicles to be in 8
charge of and responsible for voter registration within the 9
bureau. Each deputy registrar of motor vehicles shall designate an 10
employee in that deputy registrar's office to be in charge of and 11
responsible for voter registration within that office. 12

(B) The registrar shall provide, in cooperation with the 13
secretary of state, a voter registration training program and 14
materials ~~for initial training in voter registration and for~~ 15
~~ongoing training~~ for all deputy registrars, and ~~their~~ all 16
employees of the registrar or of a deputy registrar, who interact 17
with individuals who are applying for or renewing driver's 18
licenses or identification cards issued under Chapter 4507. of the 19

Revised Code. 20

Each such deputy registrar shall complete the training 21
program not more than three months after the deputy registrar 22
enters into the deputy registrar's first contract with the 23
registrar and not less than once annually thereafter. Each such 24
employee shall complete the training program not more than three 25
months after beginning employment and not less than once annually 26
thereafter. A deputy registrar or employee who holds that position 27
as of the date this division applies to that person shall complete 28
the training program not more than one year after that date and 29
not less than once annually thereafter. 30

This division applies to a deputy registrar and that deputy 31
registrar's employees only after the deputy registrar enters into 32
a new contract with the registrar after the effective date of this 33
amendment. 34

(C) The registrar shall report to the secretary of state at 35
least once annually the number of applicants for licenses served 36
and the number of voter registration transactions completed and 37
transmitted to the board of elections by the registrar and all 38
deputy registrars. 39

Section 2. That existing section 4501.023 of the Revised Code 40
is hereby repealed. 41

Section 3. (A) There is hereby created the Motor Voter Act 42
Study Committee, consisting of eight members. Two members shall be 43
appointed by the President of the Senate, two members shall be 44
appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, two members shall 45
be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and 46
two members shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House 47
of Representatives. The Committee shall elect from among its 48
members a co-chairperson from the House of Representatives and a 49
co-chairperson from the Senate, neither of whom shall be from the 50

same political party. The Committee shall hold a minimum of three public meetings. 51
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(B) The Committee shall do all of the following: 53

(1) Study whether Ohio is in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, also known as the Motor Voter Act; 54
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(2) Determine whether Ohio is complying with its duties under the Motor Voter Act and otherwise is in compliance with the Act, and if Ohio is not in compliance, determine whether that lack of compliance jeopardizes federal funding that assists with elections in Ohio; 56
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(3) Determine whether Ohio, through the Secretary of State, county election officials, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and deputy registrars, is meeting its obligation under federal and state law to offer voter registration to every person who engages in a transaction with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or a deputy registrar; 61
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(4) Determine whether funding levels of the Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles are adequate to comply with the Motor Voter Act; 67
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(5) Compare the rates of voter registration at offices of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and deputy registrars among and within counties in Ohio and among Ohio and other states; 70
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(6) Use resources such as census data, U.S. Election Assistance Commission reports, and other data to evaluate how Ohio compares with other states in terms of pro-active voter registration efforts, dedication of resources to voter registration, and compliance with the Motor Voter Act; 73
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(7) Formulate recommendations as to how Ohio may improve its voter registration process and carry out the purpose of the Motor Voter Act, to promote the exercise of the fundamental right to 78
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vote; 81

(8) Make recommendations to the General Assembly relative to 82
the measures that can be taken to improve voter registration 83
efforts through the offices of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and 84
deputy registrars. 85

(C) The Committee shall consult with and receive input from 86
voters, voting rights advocates, county election officials, state 87
election officials from the office of the Secretary of State, 88
officials from the Department of Public Safety and Bureau of Motor 89
Vehicles, and deputy registrars. 90

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the Secretary of State, county 91
boards of elections, and deputy registrars shall cooperate with 92
the Committee and make records from their respective offices 93
available to the Committee in a prompt manner, and shall not 94
hinder the Committee in the performance of its duties. 95

(D) The Committee shall compile a report containing its 96
findings and recommendations, and not later than October 1, 2013, 97
shall furnish a copy of its report to the Governor, the President 98
of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of 99
the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House 100
of Representatives. After the reports have been so distributed, 101
the Committee shall cease to exist. 102