

**As Re-referred to the Senate State Government Oversight and Reform Committee**

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

**S. B. No. 146**

**Senator Turner**

**Cosponsors: Senators Sawyer, Kearney**

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**A B I L L**

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 51  
public meetings. 52

(B) The Committee shall do all of the following: 53

(1) Study whether Ohio is in compliance with the National 54  
Voter Registration Act of 1993, also known as the Motor Voter Act; 55

(2) Determine whether Ohio is complying with its duties under 56  
the Motor Voter Act and otherwise is in compliance with the Act, 57  
and if Ohio is not in compliance, determine whether that lack of 58  
compliance jeopardizes federal funding that assists with elections 59  
in Ohio; 60

(3) Determine whether Ohio, through the Secretary of State, 61  
county election officials, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and 62  
deputy registrars, is meeting its obligation under federal and 63  
state law to offer voter registration to every person who engages 64  
in a transaction with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or a deputy 65  
registrar; 66

(4) Determine whether funding levels of the Department of 67  
Public Safety and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles are adequate to 68  
comply with the Motor Voter Act; 69

(5) Compare the rates of voter registration at offices of the 70  
Bureau of Motor Vehicles and deputy registrars among and within 71  
counties in Ohio and among Ohio and other states; 72

(6) Use resources such as census data, U.S. Election 73  
Assistance Commission reports, and other data to evaluate how Ohio 74  
compares with other states in terms of pro-active voter 75  
registration efforts, dedication of resources to voter 76  
registration, and compliance with the Motor Voter Act; 77

(7) Formulate recommendations as to how Ohio may improve its 78  
voter registration process and carry out the purpose of the Motor 79

Voter Act, to promote the exercise of the fundamental right to 80  
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