



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Senate moves to ensure honest elections, passes Voter ID

*SB 289 would require photo identification, but not prevent anyone qualified from voting
Legislation has support of the Secretary of State and town clerks*

CONCORD – Calling it a move to ensure honest elections by preventing voter fraud, the Senate passed SB 289 today. The legislation would require individuals to present a valid photo ID to vote in person starting later this year. Those without an ID would be required to sign a voter affidavit swearing they are who they say they are and that they meet voting requirements. SB 289 is being supported by Secretary of State William Gardner and the NH City and Town Clerk's Association.

SB 289 co-sponsor and Majority Leader Jeb Bradley, R-Wolfeboro:

"This bill is very workable. It does not disenfranchise any voters. It does not create a single barrier. What it does do is ensure our elections are clean. As long as you are who you say you are you will not have a problem. If not, then don't try to vote in New Hampshire."

Sen. Tom De Blois, R-Manchester:

"This past election proved that dead people can potentially vote. This is why we need Voter ID. We need to make an adjustment to our voting system, just like we've been making adjustments for the past 150 years and I dare say we'll adjust in the future. Voter ID is the most important piece of legislation this year. We can't let the opportunity go by."

Sen. Ray White, R-Bedford:

"I enthusiastically support this bill. I believe it is well thought out and has no barriers. Voting is a precious commodity. People get excited to vote when they know their vote counts. People get discouraged if they think voter fraud will cancel their vote. SB 289 gives voters confidence that their vote counts."

Under SB 289, valid photo ID's include: A drivers license issued by the state of New Hampshire (regardless of expiration date); an identification card issued by the Director of Motor Vehicles; an Armed Services identification card; a U.S. Passport (regardless of expiration date); any other valid photo ID issued by federal, state, county or municipal government; and a valid student ID card.

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