



NH State Senate
NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Votes to Improve Voter Registration Process

SB 318 will improve the accuracy of voter rolls while informing voters of their rights and responsibilities

CONCORD – Continuing its efforts to protect the integrity of our elections, the state Senate passed legislation today that will improve the accuracy of the state's voter rolls.

A companion to the recently passed SB289, which will require voters show identification before receiving a ballot, SB318 focuses on issues of residency and domicile to ensure the names on the checklist are in fact eligible New Hampshire voters.

Senator Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry), the bill's prime sponsor, said, "Equally as important as asking someone to prove their identity before obtaining a ballot, we must do more to ensure only eligible, New Hampshire residents are being added to the checklists across our state. By including language on our registration form detailing what it means to become a New Hampshire voter, we believe those who really should not be voting in a particular town will think twice before signing their name to the form."

Specifically, the language added to the voter registration card informs the voter he or she can only be domiciled in one place; that he or she can only vote in one city, town or state in a given election; and that by registering to vote he or she is declaring residency in New Hampshire and is now subject to all laws of the state. This language was previously included on the voter registration form but was removed in 2007.

Background: A recent study from the Pew Center on the State found:

- Approximately 24 million - or one in every eight - active voter registrations in the U.S. are no longer valid or are significantly inaccurate. Of these, about 12 million are a result of incorrect addresses.
- More than 1.8 million deceased individuals are listed as active voters in the U.S.
- Approximately 2.75 million people have active registrations in more than one state, including over 70,000 who are actively registered in three or more states.

Full study here:

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Pew_Upgrading_Voter_Registration.pdf

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