

One Hundred Fifth Legislature - First Session - 2017

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB290

Chairperson: Senator John Murante

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: March 09, 2017

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 290 proposes a change in the voter registration process, to shift from an opt-in to an opt-out process, and to make transfer of information about registered voters between state agencies more efficient. LB 290 consists of two components to modify how state agencies administer voter registration as required under federal law, while increasing the accuracy and enhancing the maintenance of the voter registration database.

Sections 2 and 3 of LB 290 modify current Motor Voter from an opt-in structure to an opt-out program. Applicants applying for a Nebraska driver's license or state ID will be notified that unless they affirmatively opt-out, the information provided to the Department of Motor Vehicles will be used to register them to vote, to update their voter registration, or affirm their voter registration. This section provides direction to the Department of Motor Voters that only those applications where the applicant has indicated that (1) the applicant is a US citizen and (2) are 18 years of age or are 17 years old and will be 18 by the upcoming election shall be transferred to election officials under this program.

Section 4 of the bill constructs a mechanism and provides the necessary authority for the Secretary of State and state agencies required to provide voter registration at the point of application, renewal, or change of address for public assistance to enter into a memorandum of understanding to electronically transfer data for the purpose of voter registration.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tony Vargas