

Legislature - First Session - 2019

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB687

Chairperson: Senator Tom Brewer

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Date of Hearing: March 14, 2019

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

LB687 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 the Department of Motor Vehicles, county election officials, and the Secretary of State more efficient.

LB687 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. This is done by modifying the existing Motor Voter program 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. The bill 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.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Tony Vargas