A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1　　　SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the participation of

2　eligible voters in elections is vital to American democracy.

3　More than fifty-one million eligible citizens nationwide remain

4　unregistered to vote, one in eight voter registration records

5　contain a serious error, and many voter registration systems

6　remain inefficient and largely based on outdated technology.

7　　　The Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC, is

8　a nonprofit organization that was formed in 2012 to help states

9　improve the accuracy of voter registration rolls by using secure

10　data-matching tools. ERIC uses the voter registration rolls of

11　member states and several other databases, such as driver's

12　licensing records, Social Security Administration records, and

13　the United States Postal Service's national change of address

14　registry to compare voting lists. Twenty states and the

15　District of Columbia now participate in ERIC and receive, as

16　member states, reports that show voters who have moved within

17　the respective states, voters who have moved out of the state,

1 voters with duplicate registrations within the state, voters who

2 have passed away, and individuals who are potentially eligible

3 to vote and have not yet registered to vote.

4 The legislature further finds that many persons reside in

5 Hawaii on a part-time basis. This mobile population may be

6 registered to vote in more than one state due to outdated

7 registration records, thus challenging the accuracy of Hawaii's

8 and other states' voter registration rolls. Accordingly, the

9 legislature finds that modernizing Hawaii's system of verifying

10 voter registration data is essential to ensuring the integrity

11 of Hawaii's voter registration rolls.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require:

13 (1) The office of elections to join the Electronic

14   Registration Information Center; and

15 (2) The State and each county to use the Electronic

16   Registration Information Center to verify their voter

17   rolls.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended

19 by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately

20 designated and to read as follows:

1   "**§11-   Driver's license and civil identification card**

2   **databases.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, databases

3   maintained or operated by the counties or the department of

4   transportation containing driver's license and civil

5   identification card information, including any documents or

6   images, shall be electronically accessible by election officials

7   and the statewide voter registration system to allow for the

8   timely processing of voter registration applications, facilitate

9   verification of information provided by online voter

10   registration applicants under section 11-15.3, ensure the

11   integrity of the voter registration rolls, permit disclosure

12   associated with membership in non-profit organizations for an

13   election purpose, or for any other election purpose."

14   SECTION 3. Section 286-311, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

15   amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

16   "(a) [A11] Except as provided in section 11-   , all

17   information and records acquired by the examiner of drivers

18   under this part shall be confidential. All information and

19   records shall be maintained in an appropriate form and in an

20   appropriate office in the custody and under the control of the

21   examiner. The information shall be available only to authorized

1   individuals under such restrictions as the director shall

2   prescribe. The examiner may dispose of any application or

3   identification card, or information or record relating to the

4   application or identification card, which does not include a

5   social security number, without regard to chapter 94, whenever,

6   in the examiner's discretion, retention of the information or

7   record is no longer required or practicable."

8   SECTION 4. No later than May 8, 2020, the office of

9   elections shall join the Electronic Registration Information

10 Center. The office of elections shall share with each county

11 the information and services provided by the Electronic

12 Registration Information Center pursuant to terms of the

13 office's membership agreement with that organization.

14   The office of elections and each county office that

15 administers elections shall use information and services

16 provided by the Electronic Registration Information Center to

17 verify their respective voter registration rolls.

18   SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general

19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $25,000 or so much

20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the

1 office of elections to join the Electronic Registration

2 Information Center.

3   The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of

4 elections for the purposes of this Act.

5   SECTION 6.   Beginning prior to fiscal year 2020-2021, the

6 office of elections shall request as part of its annual budget

7 an appropriation from the legislature to pay annual dues for

8 Hawaii's participation in the Electronic Registration

9 Information Center.

10   SECTION 7.   Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed

11 and stricken.   New statutory material is underscored.

12   SECTION 8.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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Report Title:
Voter Registration; Verification; Appropriation

Description:
Requires the office of elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center and share information with counties to encourage voter participation and ensure integrity of voter registration rolls. Authorizes election officials to have electronic access to driver's license and state identification databases for election related purposes. Appropriates moneys. (SD1)

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