
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. An
3 integral part of voter participation is the maintenance of
4 accurate and current voter registration rolls. The Electronic
5 Registration Information Center, Inc., or ERIC, is a nonprofit
6 organization that was formed in 2012 to help states improve the
7 accuracy of voter registration rolls by using secure data-
8 matching tools. ERIC uses the voter registration rolls of
9 member states and several other databases, such as driver's
10 licensing records, Social Security Administration records, and
11 the United States Postal Service's national change of address
12 registry to compare voting lists. Twenty-four states and the
13 District of Columbia now participate in ERIC and receive, as
14 member states, reports that show voters who have moved within
15 the respective states, voters who have moved out of the state,
16 voters with duplicate registrations within the state, voters who



1 have passed away, and individuals who are potentially eligible
2 to vote and have not yet registered to vote.

3 The legislature further finds that many persons reside in
4 Hawai'i on a part-time basis. This mobile population may be
5 registered to vote in more than one state due to outdated
6 registration records, thus challenging the accuracy of Hawai'i's
7 and other states' voter registration rolls. Accordingly, the
8 legislature finds that modernizing Hawai'i's system of verifying
9 voter registration data is essential to ensuring the integrity
10 of Hawai'i's voter registration rolls.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require:

- 12 (1) The office of elections to file an application with
13 ERIC for the State to be admitted as a member of the
14 organization; and
- 15 (2) The State and each county to use the information and
16 services made available by ERIC to verify their voter
17 rolls.

18 SECTION 2. No later than January 1, 2025, the office of
19 elections shall file an application with Electronic Registration
20 Information Center, Inc., for the State to be admitted as a
21 member of the organization. The office of elections shall share



1 with each county the information and services made available by
2 Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc., pursuant to
3 the terms and conditions of the State's membership agreement
4 with the organization.

5 The office of elections and each county office that
6 administers elections shall use information and services made
7 available by Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. to
8 verify their respective voter registration rolls.

9 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
10 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
11 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
12 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
13 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
14 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
15 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
16 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
17 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
18 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
19 ceiling are that:

20 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
21 serve the public interest; and



1 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
2 addressed by this Act.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$25,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
6 office of elections to prepare and file an application with
7 Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. for the State
8 to be admitted as a member of the organization.

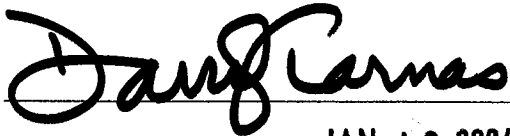
9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
10 elections for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 5. Before fiscal year 2025-2026, the office of
12 elections shall request as part of its annual budget an
13 appropriation from the legislature to pay the State's annual
14 membership dues to Electronic Registration Information Center,
15 Inc.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

17

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 16 2024



H.B. NO. 1609

Report Title:

Office of Elections; Voter Registration; Verification;
Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc.; Membership;
Application; Counties; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Office of Elections to file an application with Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. (ERIC), by 1/1/2025, for the State to be admitted as a member of the organization. Requires the Office of Elections to share with each county the information and services made available by ERIC pursuant to the State's membership agreement with the organization. Requires the Office of Elections and each county office that administers elections to use information and services made available by ERIC to verify their respective voter registration rolls. Makes an appropriation.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

