



**MODEL BILL TO ENABLE VOTERS TO VERIFY THEIR REGISTRATION
STATUS AND RECORDS AND TO LOCATE THEIR POLLING PLACES**

Sec. 1. Title. This act is called the Public Access Portals and Voter Information Act.

Sec. 2. Findings. The legislature makes the following findings:

(a) Public access portals are needed to enable citizens in [state] to protect their own voting rights by ensuring that they are properly registered, correcting errors or omissions in their voter registration records, and determining the location and accessibility of their polling places.

(b) Public access portals are needed to assist election officials in maintaining an accurate and complete list of registered voters by enabling voters to verify and correct the information in their voter registration records.

(c) Public access portals are needed to improve the administration of elections in that they will reduce the number of errors and omissions on the list of registered voters, reduce the number of provisional ballots cast, reduce the number of votes lost due to errors on the registration list, reduce the number of voter inquiries concerning registration status and polling place locations and accessibility, save election administration resources, increase the information available to voters, reduce voter confusion, and improve the public's confidence in the administration of elections.

Sec. 3. Purpose. The purposes of this act are to reduce unnecessary barriers to voting and to assist the state in election administration by enabling individuals to check the status of their applications for voter registration, to correct errors or omissions in their voter registration records, and to locate the polling place to which they have been assigned.

Sec. 4. Public Access Portals.

(a) **In General.** No later than [date], 2006, the [Chief Election Official] shall establish a system of public access portals permitting an individual or that individual's agent (i) to access and verify the voter registration information maintained by the state relating to that individual and only that individual; (ii) to learn how to correct or supplement inaccurate or incomplete voter registration information maintained by the state relating to that individual and only that individual; and (iii) to determine the name, address and relevant operating information of the polling place corresponding to any physical address within the state.

(b) **Access to Portals.** The public access portal system shall permit access via the Internet and via telephone using a toll-free number; shall use technology to ensure that it is

accessible to individuals whose sight or hearing is impaired; and shall be accessible in English as well as in other languages, including at least those languages required by Sections 203 and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973aa-1a, 1973b(f)(4).

(c) Responsibilities of [Chief Election Official]. The [Chief Election Official] shall be responsible for creating and maintaining the public access portal system and for providing the software, hardware, and operational protocols necessary to ensure that the public access portal system is accessible to the public and user-friendly and that the privacy and security of voter registration information is ensured.

(d) Voter Registration Information in Portals. For purposes of this section, the “voter registration information” of each individual shall be defined as the most current information maintained by the state relevant to determining the official voter registration status of the individual, verifying the individual’s voter registration records, determining the process by which that individual may vote and have that vote counted, and whether the individual’s vote was counted. Such information shall include:¹

- (i) The last, first, and middle name of the individual;
- (ii) The official registration status of the individual;
- (iii) The individual’s date of birth;
- (iv) The street address or physical location, city or municipality, and zip code for the individual, if any;
- (v) The individual’s driver’s license number, if the individual has a current and valid driver’s license; the last four digits of the individual’s social security number, if the individual does not have a current and valid driver’s license but does have a social security number; or the unique identifying number assigned to the individual for voter registration purposes;
- (vi) The individual’s political party affiliation, if any;
- (vii) As soon as available, the name and address of the polling place corresponding to the individual’s street address in subsection (iv); the hours that the polling place will be open on the day of the next election; and whether or not that polling place is accessible to persons with disabilities;
- (viii) Whether the individual will be required to present identification or identifying information in order to vote and to ensure that such vote is counted, including the nature of the identification or identifying information that will be accepted;
- (ix) Whether the individual requires physical or language assistance to vote;
- (x) Whether the individual requested an absentee ballot; if so, whether the individual was sent an absentee ballot; if so, whether that ballot was received by the appropriate elections official; if so, whether that ballot was counted; and if that ballot was not counted, the reason it was not counted;
- (xi) Whether the individual voted by provisional ballot; if so, whether that ballot was counted; and if that ballot was not counted, the reason it was not counted;

¹ Each element of this list should be included to the extent that the state maintains this information and to the extent feasible.

- (xii) The contact information for the election official responsible for registration for the individual; and
- (xiii) Any other information deemed by the [Chief Election Official] to be relevant to the voter registration status of the individual and the process by which the individual may vote and have that vote counted.

(e) Additional Information in Portals on Voter Registration. For any individual, the public access portal system shall describe the process by which that individual may correct or supplement any inaccurate or incomplete voter registration information for that individual. For any individual who seeks to access the public access portal system using personal identifying information that does not match any record in the statewide voter registration database, the public access portal system shall indicate that the individual's information was not found in the state's voter registration records and shall describe the process by which the individual may become registered to vote. For any individual whose registration is contingent, pending, or provisional, the public access portal system shall describe the reason for such contingent, pending, or provisional status and the process by which the individual may become fully registered.

(f) Additional Information in Portals on Voting. The public access portal system shall contain all of the voting information required by Section 302(b) of the Help America Vote Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 15482(b), to be publicly posted at each polling place on Election Day. That information includes but is not limited to: as soon as available, a sample version of the ballot that will be used for the upcoming election; instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a ballot and how to cast a provisional ballot; and general information on voting rights under applicable federal and state laws.

(g) Privacy and Security. The [Chief Election Official] shall implement strong security measures to ensure that the public access portal system prevents persons other than the individual whose voter registration information is being accessed, that individual's agent, or an authorized election official acting within the scope of his or her duties from viewing or accessing confidential information in that individual's registration records.

(h) Polling Place Finder. The public access portal system shall include an independently operated polling place finder that enables any individual to determine the polling place associated with any street address or location within the state, as well as the hours that the polling place will be open on the day of the next election and whether the polling place is accessible to persons with disabilities.

Sec. 5. Public Education and Training. The [Chief Election Official] shall ensure that there is adequate public notice of the existence of the public access portal system and instructions regarding its use. The [Chief Election Official] shall also ensure that authorized election officials are adequately trained to maintain and respond to questions about the public access portal system.

Sec. 6. Effect on Other Laws. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect access to voter registration lists as provided in [cite section of law addressing public access to voter registration lists].

Sec. 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect on [date], 2006.