

SUMMARY OF HD 2500 and S. 373
Rep. Peter Kocot and Sen. Cindy Creem
AN ACT AUTOMATICALLY REGISTERING ELIGIBLE VOTERS
AND ENHANCING SAFEGAURDS AGAINST FRAUD

- Establishes a system of automatic voter registration to increase the efficiency and limit the total cost of voter registration for the Commonwealth and its municipalities, ensure that every eligible citizen of the Commonwealth who wishes to be registered to vote is registered, increase the completeness and accuracy of the register of voters, prevent erroneous disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, promote greater participation of eligible voters in elections, and reduce the incidence of voter registration fraud.
- Directs “registration agencies” (already defined as state agencies that must register voters under the federal “motor voter” law) to collect registration information for citizens who transact official business and transmit it to local Registrars of Voters.
- Directs local Registrars of Voters to add to their official register of voters, if not already registered, the names of eligible citizens transmitted to them by registration agencies.
- Allows citizens to enroll in a political party, or to decline to be registered for any reason.
- Provides several new anti-fraud measures:
 - Joins the Electronic Registration Information Center, a national clearinghouse that collects state registration information to prevent registration and voting in more than one state;
 - Requires local Registrars to notify new registrants’ last place of registration, and to remove the names of voters who register elsewhere; and
 - Imposes a criminal penalty of up to a \$10,000 fine or 5 years’ imprisonment, or both, for anyone who knowingly provides false registration information.
- Gives the Secretary of the Commonwealth oversight over the entire system, including the power to issue regulations and guidelines, and requires the Secretary to make an annual public report of the system’s registration statistics.