

SENATE No. 488

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to modernize the central registry of voters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/1/2021</i>

SENATE No. 488

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 488) of Rebecca L. Rausch and James B. Eldridge for legislation to modernize the central registry of voters. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 421 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to modernize the central registry of voters.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 51 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
2 striking section 47C in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 47C. Central registry of voters; agreement with Electronic Registration
4 Information Center, Inc.

5 (a) The secretary of state shall maintain a central registry of voters in accordance with
6 this section.

7 (b) Information contained in the central registry shall be provided by the registrars or
8 equivalent in the commonwealth’s cities and towns.

9 (c) The central registry shall contain, without limitation, the following information about
10 each registered voter in the commonwealth:

11 (1) Full name;

12 (2) Former name, if any;

13 (3) Residential address;

14 (4) Date of birth;

15 (5) Political party enrollment or designation; and

16 (6) Effective date of registration.

17 (d) The central registry may contain, without limitation, the following information about
18 residents of the Commonwealth age 16 and over:

19 (1) Full name;

20 (2) Former name, if any;

21 (3) Residential address on January first in the current year;

22 (4) Residential address on January first in the preceding year;

23 (5) Date of birth;

24 (6) Occupation;

25 (7) Veteran status; and

26 (8) Nationality, if not a citizen of the United States.

27 (e) The central registry shall be digitally maintained using the most advanced applicable
28 technology reasonably available to the state secretary.

29 (f) The information contained in the central registry pursuant to paragraph (c) shall be:

30 (1) available to state party committees, statewide candidate committees, state ballot
31 question committees, the jury commissioner, adjutant general and any other individual, agency
32 or entity that the state secretary shall designate by regulation consistent with the purposes of this
33 section, at a fair and reasonable cost not to exceed the cost of printing in hard copy, if requested,
34 or issuing computer-readable data files; and

35 (2) provided by the state secretary to the election officials at each polling place in the
36 commonwealth in digital format sufficient to allow for designated election officials to conduct
37 real-time searches of the registry and to modify a voter's registration information upon
38 presentation by the voter of appropriate documentation to justify the modification.

39 (g) The state secretary shall use all reasonable efforts to secure federal funding to
40 maintain the central registry consistent with the provisions of this section and provide its
41 information as required in paragraph (f)(2).

42 (h) The state secretary shall adopt regulations governing the operation of the central
43 registry consistent with the provisions of this section.

44 (i) Not later than April 30, 2021, the state secretary shall enter into an agreement with the
45 Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc. on behalf of the commonwealth that shall
46 specify the terms and conditions of the commonwealth's membership in the Center. The
47 agreement shall include terms providing for the periodic sharing of data between the central

48 registry, the registry of motor vehicles and any other automatic voter registration agency as
49 designated by the secretary, and the Center, including, but not limited to, voter names and
50 addresses.

51 (j) The state secretary shall certify compliance with paragraph (i) not later than May 3,
52 2021, and file such certification with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the
53 chairs of the joint committee on election laws. Should the secretary fail to comply with the
54 requirements of paragraph (i), the state secretary shall instead file a report detailing the specific
55 reasons for such noncompliance, as well as all specific efforts undertaken by the state secretary
56 or any of their representatives or designees to achieve compliance with paragraph (i) in each of
57 the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.