

55<sup>th</sup> House District

Lorain County

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**Gayle L. Manning**  
State Representative

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Higher Education  
Primary & Secondary Education  
Transportation & Public Safety

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee.

It's an honor to bring before you this morning House Bill 540, legislation which will make it more convenient for Ohioans to register to vote and keep their voter registration current.

With me today is Chris Oliveti with the Ohio Secretary of State's office...

Ohio's election laws have seen a number of improvements through the years designed to improve the voting experience for Ohioans and make administering our elections more efficient while also continuing to protect the integrity of, and the public's confidence in, our elections.

The legislation before you today continues that spirit.

House Bill 540 will allow Ohioans to register to vote or update the address on their voter registration when they go to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to get or renew a driver's license or state ID card.

Doing so will make this process more convenient for Ohioans while maintaining the important safeguards we have in place to prevent voter fraud and protect the integrity of our elections.

This legislation will make our election system more efficient, more secure and improve the accuracy of Ohio's voter lists.

The bill does not change any of the current requirements for someone to become a registered voter in Ohio. Prospective voters, for example, will still be required to be Ohio residents and show they are United States citizens.

The Ohio Secretary of State's office would run the proposed automated registration and verification system.

Here's how House Bill 540 would work.

When a person applies to receive or renew a driver's license, commercial driver's license or state identification card, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles would provide the individual's information, along with an electronic copy of their signature, to the Ohio Secretary of State's office within seven days of receipt. The secretary of state's office would then consult the statewide voter registration database to determine whether the person is registered to vote.

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If the person is eligible and registered to vote at their current address and under their current name, the secretary of state will notify the appropriate county elections board of that information.

If the person is eligible to vote but is not registered, the secretary of state would forward the individual's information to the appropriate county board of elections. The county elections board would then register the individual to vote and notify the voter that the process has been completed.

If the person is registered to vote but needs to update their registration, the secretary of state would provide the individual's information to the appropriate county elections board, which would update the registration and notify the voter that process has been completed.

To be clear, people would have the option to decline registering to vote or updating their registration by returning the notice they receive to the Secretary of State's office or their local elections board.

The bill also makes clear that in all circumstances, individuals must submit their information to the BMV not later than 30 days preceding an election to be eligible to vote at that election, mirroring current Ohio law mandating that individuals be registered to vote at least 30 days prior to the election.

I should also note that, under House Bill 540, people would still be permitted to register to vote or update their voter registration online, by mail or in person, as is the case under current law.

Thank you.

I'll now turn it over to Chris Oliveti from the Ohio Secretary of State's office.