

ACT 190

S.B. NO. 2240

A Bill for an Act Relating to Elections.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the participation of eligible voters in elections is vital to American democracy. An integral part of voter participation is the maintenance of accurate and current voter registration rolls. The Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc., or ERIC, is a nonprofit organization that was formed in 2012 to help states improve the accuracy of voter registration rolls by using secure data-matching tools. ERIC uses the voter registration rolls of member states and several other databases, such as driver's licensing records, Social Security Administration records, and the United States Postal Service's national change of address registry to compare voting lists. Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia now participate in ERIC and receive, as member states, reports that list voters who have moved within the respective states, voters who have moved out of a state, voters having duplicate registrations within a state, voters who have passed away, and individuals who are potentially eligible to vote and have not yet registered to do so.

The legislature further finds that many persons reside in Hawaii on a part-time basis. This mobile population may be registered to vote in more than one state due to outdated registration records, thus challenging the accuracy of Hawaii's and other states' voter registration rolls. The legislature also finds that part of the process for a state to be admitted as a member of ERIC is for that state to send mailers to its residents who have driver's licenses but are not registered to vote, encouraging them to register to vote. Accordingly, the legislature finds that modernizing Hawaii's system of verifying voter registration data is essential to ensuring the integrity of Hawaii's voter registration rolls.

The purpose of this Act is to require:

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

SECTION 2. Chapter 11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§11- Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc.; membership; voter registration; verification; annual budget request. (a) No later than June 30, 2025, the office of elections shall file an application with Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc., for the State’s admission as a member of that organization.

(b) The office of elections shall share with each county the information and services made available by Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc., pursuant to the terms and conditions of the State’s membership agreement with the organization. The office of elections and each county office that administers elections shall use information and services made available by Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc., to verify their respective voter registration rolls.

(c) The office of elections shall take necessary actions to maintain the State’s membership with Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc.

(d) Beginning with fiscal year 2025-2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, the office of elections shall request as part of its annual budget an appropriation from the legislature to pay the State’s annual membership dues to Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc.”

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$125,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the office of elections to prepare and file an application with Electronic Registration Information Center, Inc., for the State to be admitted as a member of the organization, and for the office of elections to send mailers to all Hawaii residents who have driver’s licenses but are not registered to vote, encouraging them to register to vote.

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

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

(Approved July 3, 2024.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.