



Testimony of Matthew Netto, AARP Rhode Island
In support of House Resolution 5515
House State Government and Elections Committee

March 18, 2025

Chairman Shanley and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with 38 million members nationwide and nearly 125,000 members here in Rhode Island. We advocate on behalf of issues that impact older adults, and we appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for proposing to the voters of the state a constitutional amendment which would remove the thirty (30) day state and local residency requirements, and require that a voter be registered by, or on election day as House Resolution 5515 from Chairwoman Alzate proposes to do.

Voter turnout refers to the percentage of eligible voters who vote in an election. Turnout typically varies by state. This is partly due to each state's registration and voting procedures. Some states have practices that encourage registration and voting, such as allowing people to register to vote on the day of the election. States with same-day voter registration have on average three to seven percent higher turnout rates. In the twenty-three states (plus DC) offering same-day registration, eligible voters can engage in the political process on Election Day, even if they missed the chance to register to vote in the weeks or months prior.

Four of the six states in New England have same-day voter registration. Some states have had same-day registration for over 50 years. AARP believes that policymakers should encourage and promote maximum participation in the electoral process. States should adopt voter registration and voting systems and procedures that expand the range of voting options.

An important step in promoting maximum participation would be allowing same-day voter registration. The right to vote is a fundamental human right. Free and fair elections are essential to democracy. AARP urges you to recommend passage on House Resolution 5515.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Have a great day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Netto". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Netto, AARP Rhode Island, Associate State Director - Advocacy
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