



State of Rhode Island

**Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State**

**Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State**

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House Committee on State Government and Elections

RE: H5708 - An Act Relating to Elections – Registration of Voters

Dear Chair Shanley,

I am writing this letter in support of the goal of House Bill 5708, legislation that would enable Automated Voter Registration (AVR) for individuals applying for hunting or fishing licenses.

As Secretary of State, my priority is to enfranchise voters and encourage opportunities for voter engagement; therefore, I strongly support efforts to expand and simplify voter registration as proposed in House Bill 5708. AVR is a process in which eligible individuals automatically register to vote when interacting with certain government agencies. The voter information is transmitted from the State agency to our office and into the Central Voter Registration System (CVRS) for review and processing by the cities/towns. In 2018, the Department of State worked with the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to implement AVR. To date, the DMV has been the only State agency to incorporate this voter registration process.

Nevertheless, thanks to this partnership with the DMV, our voter registration system has become significantly more accurate as voters' information is routinely updated. The DMV provides the Department of State with the majority of voter registrations and registration updates, therefore supporting our efforts to maintain accurate voter rolls. Ultimately, AVR streamlines the registration process for voters, reducing paperwork and red tape.

The proposition in this bill would strengthen our efforts to obtain more accurate and up-to-date voter information, as it would extend the AVR process to the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for individuals who have purchased a hunting or fishing license.

Our office is happy to work with the sponsor and DEM with any information they need, should the Committee pass this bill. That said, we urge this Committee and the full House to support this legislation as a partnership with DEM to implement AVR would provide an additional, comprehensive layer for more accurate voter information and enhanced voter list maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections  
The Honorable Richard R. Fascia

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