



Call to Action on HB7160 - Increasing Voter Access and Bottle Bill
HB 7294 Update
May 29, 2019

HB7160 - Increasing Voter Access

Good news! HB 7160 An Act Increasing Voter Access passed the House last night at about 10:30! The bill does not include all of the language we've been pushing for, but it does include some important changes including codifying automatic voter registration and including additional state agencies and allowing people on parole to vote. It is a step in the right direction.

Here is a summary of its amended contents provided by the Governor's Office.

The legislation is [House Bill 7160](#), *An Act Increasing Voter Access*. The bill:

- **Enacts automatic voter registration:** Builds on the success of Connecticut's revamped motor voter program by automatically registering eligible voters unless they decline to register, codifies current protections that prevent non-citizens from registering to vote, and speeds up the electronic voter registration process and licensing transactions by digitizing voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles, other voter registration agencies, and public colleges and universities.
- **Reduces delays during election day registration:** Expands access to election day registration and reduces long lines by allowing registrars, with the permission of the Secretary of the State, to establish more than one election-day registration location in each respective municipality, and requiring registrars to submit their plans for election day registration to the Secretary for review and potential modification;
- **Allows people on parole to vote:** Promotes criminal justice reform and reintegration of citizens returning from incarceration by allowing people on parole to register and vote while on parole or assigned to a community residence;
- **Modernizes election forms and allows electronic signatures:** Confirms the law to current practice by allowing electronic transmission of change of address information from the Department of Motor Vehicles to registrars; allows for the Secretary of the State to accept electronic signatures for online voter registration and for any other forms or applications related to voter registration and election administration, except for those under the

purview of the State Elections Enforcement Commission; allows the use of technology to provide electronic forms and applications for voter registration at state agencies and other entities already required by statute to provide voter registration opportunities; and

- **Modernizes special elections:** Provides for the electronic delivery of writs of special election.

It was approved in the House by a 85-60 vote. It next will be transmitted to the State Senate, where it must be approved it before it can be sent to the governor for his signature. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATOR to PASS THIS BILL.

HB 7294 as amended by LCO 7946 - Bottle Bill

Kathy Golas reports that this bill now as 23 sponsors but has not been called for a vote yet in the House. Of course it needs to pass the House before it can be sent to the Senate between now and June 5. Kathy reports that the "beer distributors are asking for a carve out of the handling fee and the increase to 10 cents, while still getting a portion of the unredeemed deposits." She recommends contacting legislators AND doing everything you can to make sure that you redeem your deposit containers instead of putting them in your municipal recycling bin. Here's a link to much more information about the Bottle Bill from our website: https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/call_to_action_update_bottle_bill_may_9.pdf

P.S. The bill was NOT brought to the floor of the House on May 9, contrary to our expectations when this info sheet was prepared.