

## **An Act Establishing a Task Force on Election Day Registration**

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The League of Women Voters urges you to support “An Act Establishing a Task Force on Election Day Registration.”

**Lead Sponsors:** Rep. Thomas J. Calter

**Background:** While Election Day registration (EDR) is currently working in nine states – Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, and 25 other states have legislative activity regarding this process, and the Election Day registration bill passed the Senate in 2008 by a vote of 33 to 5, there are still concerns expressed by city and town clerks and others about its implementation.

**Purpose of the Bill:** This bill will create a commission to undertake a study of Election Day registration whose purpose is to assess costs, administrative requirements, the possibility of fraud, the effects on the finalization of the vote, and its impact on other proposed election changes. The analysis of the commission will provide information to determine how Election Day registration will impact the 351 individual cities and towns across the state and how this impact can be best managed. The task force is mandated to complete its study no later than September 30, 2009.

### **Talking Points:**

- Should Election Day registration become law in Massachusetts, it is the city and town clerks that will be faced with implementing the bill. Therefore, financial and logistical difficulties will be theirs to resolve. The commission can provide needed understanding and possible means to resolve these difficulties.
- There is already a significant body of information available regarding the implementation of Election Day registration in cities and towns across the country that can be accessed by the commission and utilized to ease the implementation of Election Day registration, should it become law.
- The commission is mandated to complete its report no later than September 30, 2009, which should leave ample time for the implementation of Election Day registration, should it become law, for the 2010 election, which would not have the larger voter turnout seen in presidential elections.