

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document	No. 1354
S.P. 440	In Senate, April 7, 2021

Resolve, To Study the Establishment of a System of Voting by Mail

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on April 5, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

h GT

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox. Cosponsored by Representative HARNETT of Gardiner and Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, DILL of Penobscot, HICKMAN of Kennebec, President JACKSON of Aroostook, SANBORN of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, ZEIGLER of Montville.

1 2 3 4 5 6	Sec. 1. Automatic voting by mail. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall explore options for implementing a system of automatic voting by mail and conduct a review of existing laws that would be affected by the implementation of automatic voting by mail and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs by January 1, 2022. The Secretary of State's report under this section must include but is not limited to:
7 8	1. A review and comparison of automatic voting by mail in other states, including but not limited to the states of Oregon and Colorado;
9 10	2. A recommended model for implementing automatic voting by mail that addresses all aspects of the voting by mail process, including but not limited to:
11 12	A. Automatically mailing ballots to voters and the potential inclusion of prepaid return postage;
13 14	B. Returning ballots in person at locations including drop boxes, polling places or other designated locations;
15 16 17	C. Maintenance of voter rolls to ensure voter addresses are current, including but not limited to automatic voter registration, regular comparisons with state databases and online registration updates for voters;
18 19	D. A ballot tracking system accessible to poll workers to prevent any person from voting more than once;
20	E. A system for voters to track their ballots;
21 22	F. Precanvassing to prevent election day bottlenecks and address problems with signature matching early in the vote counting process;
23 24	G. A post-election day deadline for receiving ballots postmarked on or before election day;
25	H. Multistage signature verification to confirm voter identities;
26 27	I. A notification process to inform voters of problems that could lead to their ballots being rejected; and
28	J. A process through which voters can fix issues with ballots that have been returned;
29	3. The estimated cost of implementing automatic voting by mail; and
30	4. Any legislation necessary to implement automatic voting by mail.
31 32 33	The Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report from the Secretary of State.
34	SUMMARY
35 36	This resolve directs the Secretary of State to explore options for implementing a system of automatic voting by mail in Maine.

of automatic voting by mail in Maine.