

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION**

BILL NO. 54-46

INTRODUCED BY: VanHuysse SECONDED BY: Majestic

A BILL TO: Support the Promote the Vote Ballot Initiative

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

Whereas, Voting is a right guaranteed to every eligible citizen in the United States, not a privilege for those who easily maneuver the complexities of our voter registration system; and,

Whereas, Michigan's voter registration system encompasses some of the most restrictive and burdensome laws in the nation including, but not limited, photo identification requirements at the polls, reason-only absentee ballots, prohibition of early voting, and paper-only registration; and,

Whereas, The Michigan Legislature consistently demonstrates its disinterest toward the promulgation of common-sense voter registration and rights legislation, most recently exemplified by the legislature's package of bills in 2017, which introduced more stringent voter identification laws; and,

Whereas, The concept of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) continuously proves its value by ensuring all eligible voters are initially registered upon turning 18, and remaining registered upon an address change. AVR accomplishes all of this while saving states exorbitant amounts of money associated with paper ballots. For example, "Delaware's State Election Commission documented \$200,000 in reduced labor costs the first year it switched from using paper forms to sending voter information electronically from the DMV to election officials.;" and,

Whereas, Promote the Vote's initiative hopes to put the following changes on the ballot:

- Protecting the right to vote a secret ballot
- Ensuring military service members and overseas voters get their ballots in time for their votes to count
- Providing voters with the option to vote straight party
- Automatically registering citizens to vote at the Secretary of State's office unless the citizen declines
- Allowing a citizen to register to vote until 15 days before an election by mail or in person. After that, citizens may register to vote in person with proof of residency up to and on Election Day.

- Providing all registered voters access to an absentee ballot for any reason
 - Ensuring the accuracy and integrity of elections by auditing election results.
- These changes all fall under the purview of current ASMSU General Assembly legislation; therefore be it,

Resolved, ASMSU supports the Promote the Vote ballot initiative for the civil empowerment of all Michigan State students and alumni, as well as for the advancement of free and fair elections in Michigan.

INTRODUCED ON Mar.15.2018

REFERRED TO Policy Committee **COMMITTEE ON** Mar.15.2018

SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN Sent to GA **DATE** Mar.15.2018

COMMITTEE ACTION X Voice-Majority Mar.15.2018
PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE

FINAL ACTION TAKEN X Voice-Majority Mar.22.2018
PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE


PRESIDENT


VPIA

