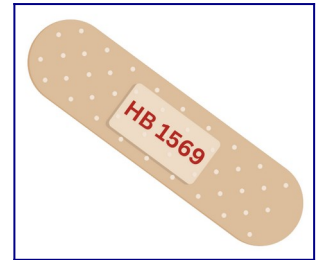


Happy Saturday! We hope you enjoyed some sunshine yesterday and were able to watch the [historic splash down of Artemis II](#). 🚀

Big moments like this get us thinking about the future, and the importance of protecting the right for everyone to have a say in it through fair elections.

In today's email, we'll cover two bills ([HB 1600](#), [HB 365](#)) we refer to as "**band-aid bills**," introduced in response to the disenfranchising effects of [HB 1569](#), which has already [turned away at least 244 voters in 2025 local elections](#) since taking effect on November 11, 2024.



While we ***of course*** support any effort to ensure more eligible voters are able to cast their ballots, these piecemeal fixes underscore a larger issue: we shouldn't ***have*** to spend this time—or taxpayer dollars—**addressing the fallout of a law that was a solution in search of a problem to begin with.**

Which brings us to the next bill we'll discuss today: [HB 1601](#), which would expand voter education around recent election law changes. Laws like HB 1569 and [SB 287's](#) new absentee voting restrictions have already led to **increased confusion for voters**, something that **must be addressed ahead of the midterms**, the first higher-turnout elections since these changes took effect.

Open Democracy Actions! ↓

The following actions, along with additional resources, can also be found on our website [HERE](#). We also host **volunteer meetings twice a week** (our ODA Teams!) where we discuss these efforts, share updates, and strategize together in real time. Feel free to drop in when you can or come every week—sign up [HERE](#) to join the team and receive the Zoom link!



Follow us on social media for updates, educational posts, and more! 📱

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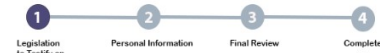


TLDR Actions for April 13-17 📢

1. [Sign in SUPPORT on HB 1600](#) ✓
2. [Email the Committee to PASS HB 1601](#) ✓
3. [Email Governor Ayotte expressing concerns about HB 365](#) 😞

1. Senate Election Law Committee *Public Hearing*: Sign in & submit testimony urging support on HB 1600

[HB 1600](#) would require the Secretary of State, along with town and city clerks, to ensure that every polling place has access to the statewide centralized voter registration database during all state, local, and federal elections.



Select Date of the Hearing

April 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	
	4	5	6	7	8	

Select the Committee: Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Choose the Bill: 9:30 am - HB1600

I am: A Member of the Public

I'm Representing: Myself

Indicate Your Position on this Bill

☒ I Support this Bill ☐ I Oppose this Bill ☐ I'm neutral on this Bill

Your Selection

Date: 4/14/2026
 Committee: Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
 Legislation: 9:30 am - HB1600
 I Am: A Member of the Public
 Representing: Myself
 I am in **SUPPORT** of this Bill

What does this mean in practice?

If a voter is registering or re-registering but is missing documentation to prove a qualification (such as age, citizenship, identity, or domicile), the supervisor of the checklist could—with the voter's consent—use the database to verify that information using verified records from the Department of Safety (DMV) and the New Hampshire Division of Vital Records.

The bill also has **bipartisan co-sponsors** (Rep. Wilhelm & Rep. Berry), signaling broad support. It is the House version of [SB 438](#), which had its second hearing on 3/31.

- [Watch Kaylie testify on SB 438 to get a better sense of HB 1600 \(extremely similar\)](#)

Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 14th at 9:30AM | | State House, Room 122-123

[Sign in **SUPPORT** on HB 1600 before 11:59PM on 4/14.](#)

[Submit online testimony by emailing the Committee](#) [OR come](#)

testify in person! [Contact Kaylie](#) for support and help preparing your remarks.

2. Senate Election Law Committee *Executive Session*: Email committee members urging support on HB 1601

[HB 1601](#) would require the Secretary of State to create a voter education program that includes information on recent changes to voting laws. The Committee is expected to make a recommendation on the bill this Tuesday, 4/14.

Voting laws in New Hampshire have changed *a lot* over the past few years—[and voters who can't keep up are paying the price](#). **Confusion leads to longer lines, mistakes, and ultimately, eligible voters being turned away from the polls.** 🙅

We appreciate the work the Secretary of State currently does to educate voters. HB 1601 **builds** on that foundation by allocating \$50,000 in **existing** [Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)](#) funds to expand voter education and address the demonstrated gaps—**because even one eligible voter being turned away should raise serious concern.**

During HB 1601's second public hearing on March 31st, the Secretary of State testified that it was unnecessary. However, when asked by Senator Perkins Kwoka whether his office still planned to send a postcard outlining recent changes to every New Hampshire voter, he confirmed that it remains the plan, while also acknowledging it was **"a very expensive proposition," relying on leftover paper from the pandemic.**

-  [Watch the Secretary of State's response](#)

This reinforces the need for a more consistent, adequately resourced approach to voter education. If even *basic* outreach like mailers raises cost concerns under normal circumstances, it underscores the importance of additional resources and a more modern, comprehensive system that meets voters where they are.

 [Click to send an email to the Senate Election Law Committee urging them to vote Ought to Pass \(OTP\).](#) 

3. Email Governor Ayotte: Concerns surrounding HB 365

[HB 365](#) is Rep. Lynn's attempt to address the [disenfranchising effects of HB 1569](#), New Hampshire's proof-of-citizenship law, which he also sponsored. It was passed by the full Senate yesterday (4/9) and is now **on its way to the Governor's desk.**

The bill would create a voucher program requiring voters to declare themselves "indigent" by completing a financial affidavit in order to receive free copies of vital records for voter registration purposes.

In practice, this program is likely to be rarely used, and it raises concerns about requiring voters to label themselves as "indigent"—a term that is both demeaning and not clearly defined in the bill—in order to access their fundamental right to vote.

It also raises a broader question: **if requiring an affidavit to attest to indigency is acceptable, why not allow voters to attest to their citizenship under penalty of perjury, as was previously permitted for years with no**

evidence of any widespread fraud?

Additionally, the Secretary of State's office currently promotes a "[Free Photo Identification Card for Voting Purposes Only](#)". It is unclear how this proposal would interact with that existing program, and whether it would continue to be available—**particularly for students, whose student IDs were recently banned for voting**. Ensuring clarity across these policies is critical so voters are not faced with yet another layer of confusion or barriers.

 [Click to send an email expressing these concerns to Governor Ayotte.](#) 

As always, thank you for staying engaged and energized week after week. **Taking just one intentional action can make a world of difference.** 

We'll continue tracking hearings, votes, and advocacy opportunities closely and will be back in your inbox next Friday with clear ways to weigh in as bills advance. Together, we can push back against harmful legislation and advance real solutions that protect and strengthen democracy in New Hampshire. We're grateful to be in this work with you.

Kaylie Efstratiou, Development and Communications Associate

<https://www.opendemocracynh.org/>

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