



New Hampshire Senate NEWS RELEASE

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Sen. Gray statement on SB 425 and SB 427 concerning proposed changes to NH voting laws

CONCORD, NH – Sen. James Gray (R-Rochester), Chairman of the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee issued the following statement today concerning SB425 regarding the establishment of an election portal and SB427 modifying the state’s absentee voter rules:

“**SB 425** will create an election portal that will improve transparency in our voting process and increase citizen’s access to important voting information. The goal is to modernize our current system for registering new voters, requesting absentee ballots, requesting changes to names and domiciles, as well as switching party affiliation in our statewide voter database. As prime sponsor of SB 425, I believe it will likely help increase participation, decrease confusion and help enhance the robust track record of voting we have here in New Hampshire. I am pleased we have bi-partisan support for this important reform.”

“However, I do not support **SB 427** which proposes major changes to our absentee voting rules. It would effectively institute mail-in voting across New Hampshire by removing all current requirements necessary to qualify for an absentee ballot. If you are able-bodied, you should always try to vote in person. In person voting and attending town meeting are part of our long election tradition here in New Hampshire. Of course, there are circumstances when absentee voting is necessary, including illness, bad weather or absence from town. However, we should not start down a road that would lead to all mail-in voting being allowed in the future.”

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