

IDENTIFICATION FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

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House Bill 4698 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Kara Hope
Committee: Elections
Complete to 6-8-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4698 would amend the Michigan Election Law to revise the photo identification that can be used for election purposes to comply with section 4 of Article II of the state constitution, approved by voters as Ballot Proposal 2 of 2022. That section provides that a registered voter has the right to prove their identity when voting or applying for an absent voter ballot in person by presenting their photo identification, including photo identification issued by an educational institution or a federal, state, local, or tribal government. The bill would accordingly add to the act photo identification issued by a local government, as well as revising the act's current description of acceptable photo identification from educational institutions. In addition, the bill would newly provide that state government-issued photo identification is acceptable only if issued by the state of Michigan, and that military photo identification must be issued by the federal government or the state of Michigan.

Under the Michigan Election Law, a person must present *identification for election purposes* to identify themselves when, among other things, voting in person or applying in person for an absent voter ballot.

Currently, the term *identification for election purposes* means any of the following:

- A driver's license or enhanced driver's license issued by the state of Michigan.
- An official state personal identification card or enhanced official state personal identification card issued by the state of Michigan.
- A current driver's license issued by another state.
- A current state personal identification card issued by another state.
- A current state government issued photo identification card.
- A current United States passport or photo identification card issued by the federal government.
- A current military photo identification card.
- A current tribal photo identification card.
- A current student photo identification card issued by a high school in Michigan; a state institution of higher education, junior college, or community college; or another accredited degree- or certificate-granting college or university, junior college, or community college located in Michigan.

Under the bill, *identification for election purposes* would mean any of the following:

- A driver's license or enhanced driver's license issued by the state of Michigan.
- An official state personal identification card or enhanced official state personal identification card issued by the state of Michigan.
- A current driver's license issued by another state.

- A current state personal identification card issued by another state.
- A current state government photo identification card *issued by the state of Michigan*.
- A current United States passport or photo identification card issued by the federal government.
- A current military photo identification card *issued by the state of Michigan or the federal government*.
- A current tribal photo identification card issued by a tribal government.
- *A current photo identification card issued by a local government.*
- A current student photo identification card issued by an ***educational institution*** in Michigan.

Educational institution would mean a public or private institution, or a separate school or department of a public or private institution, that is authorized by law or an accrediting body to grant or issue a diploma, degree, certificate, or license, or to grant approval to practice a profession or engage in an enterprise, such as an academy, high school, college, university, community college, junior college, secondary school, extension course, or a business, nursing, professional, secretarial, technical, or vocational school.

Under both current law and the bill, the photo identification would have to be issued to the individual presenting the card or document and, if presented for voting purposes, the name on the card or document would have to sufficiently match the individual's name in their voter registration record so as to accurately identify the individual as the registered elector. Note that a person registering to vote must prove their residency and eligibility, which requires other kinds of documentation than the photo identification described above.

MCL 168.2

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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