

Same-day voter registration bill gets Senate approval

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Yesterday, the state Senate agreed to permit residents to register to vote and cast a ballot immediately before an election. The Senate voted 33-15 in favor of the bill, which supporters hope will boost voter turnout and encourage participation in the democratic process, particularly among young people. While state law currently ends voter registration 25 days before an election, residents would be allowed to go to one-stop voting sites, register, and vote right away in the final two and a half weeks through the new bill. Opponents, mostly republicans, believe the identification requirements in the bill are too lax. Voters are required to show a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, "or other government document" as proof of the person's current address under the measure.