

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 319
2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
3 (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections
4 on February 24, 2026)
5 (Patron Prior to Substitute—Hernandez)

6 *A BILL to direct the Secretary of Administration to convene a work group on automatic voter registration.*

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1.** *§ 1. The Secretary of Administration shall convene a work group for the purpose of studying potential*
9 *statutory improvements to the current partial automatic voter registration (AVR) system in the*
10 *Commonwealth. The work group shall consist of representatives from the Virginia Department of Motor*
11 *Vehicles, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, the Office of the Attorney General, members of the*
12 *House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections, general registrars and other local governmental*
13 *officials, and representatives from organizations advocating for or working on voting rights, in addition to*
14 *any other persons deemed necessary by the Secretary of Administration.*

15 *The work group shall consider the following metrics to determine challenges and opportunities of*
16 *Virginia's current approach:*

17 *1. The rate at which eligible Virginians currently decline to register to vote, or update their voter*
18 *registrations, at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the declination rates of those 16 and 17 years*
19 *of age who are eligible for preregistration.*

20 *2. The number of Virginians currently eligible but not registered to vote.*

21 *3. The impact of the current partial AVR system on transaction times at DMV and opportunities to reduce*
22 *transaction times and administrative labor.*

23 *4. Protections in the current AVR system against non-citizen registration and ways of reducing the risk of*
24 *inadvertent errors or false statements.*

25 *5. The degree to which the current AVR system enables an audit trail for registration eligibility.*

26 *6. Other states' DMV AVR models and their performance on the metrics above.*

27 *The Secretary of Administration shall submit a report to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees*
28 *on Privileges and Elections with its findings by November 15, 2026. Such report shall include*
29 *recommendations for legislative action, if the work group makes any such recommendations.*