- The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House Bill No. 624 entitled "An act relating to the protection of information in the statewide voter checklist" respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
- 7 Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2154 is amended to read:
- 8 § 2154. STATEWIDE VOTER CHECKLIST
 - (a) The Secretary of State shall establish maintain a uniform and nondiscriminatory, statewide voter registration checklist. This checklist shall serve as the official voter registration list for all elections in the State. In establishing maintaining the statewide voter checklist, the Secretary shall:
 - (1) limit the <u>a</u> town clerk to adding, modifying, or deleting applicant and voter information on the portion of the checklist for that clerk's municipality;
 - (2) limit access to the statewide voter checklist for a local elections official to verifying if whether the applicant is registered in another municipality in the State by a search for the individual voter;
 - (3) notify a local elections official when a voter registered in that official's district registers in another voting district so that the voter may be removed from that district's official's district checklist;

1	(4) provide adequate security to prevent unauthorized access to the
2	checklist; and
3	(5) ensure the compatibility and comparability of information on the
4	checklist with information contained in the Department of Motor Vehicles'
5	computer systems.
6	(b)(1) A registered voter's month and day of birth, driver's license or
7	nondriver identification number, telephone number, e-mail address, and the
8	last four digits of his or her Social Security number shall be kept confidential
9	and are exempt from public copying and inspection and copying under the
10	Public Records Act.
11	(2) A public agency as defined in 1 V.S.A. § 317 and any officer,
12	employee, agent, or independent contractor of a public agency shall not
13	knowingly disclose any information pertaining to a registered voter that is
14	maintained in the statewide voter checklist or in a municipality's portion of the
15	statewide voter checklist to any foreign government or to a federal agency or
16	commission or to a person acting on behalf of a foreign government or of such
17	a federal entity for the purpose of:
18	(A) registration of a voter based on his or her information maintained
19	in the checklist;
20	(B) publicly disclosing a voter's information maintained in the
21	checklist; or

1	(C) comparing a voter's information maintained in the checklist to
2	personally identifying information contained in other federal or state databases.
3	(c)(1) Any person wishing to obtain a copy of all of the statewide voter
4	checklist must swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury pursuant to 13 V.S.A.
5	chapter 65, that the person will not:
6	(A) use the checklist for commercial purposes; or
7	(B) knowingly disclose any voter information maintained in the
8	checklist to any foreign government or to a federal agency or commission or to
9	a person acting on behalf of a foreign government or of such a federal entity in
10	circumvention of the prohibition set forth in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.
11	(2) The affirmation shall be filed with the Secretary of State.
12	(d) An elections official shall not access the portion of the statewide voter
13	checklist that is exempt from public inspection pursuant to 1 V.S.A.
14	§ 317(c)(31), except for elections purposes.
15	Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 317 is amended to read:
16	§ 317. DEFINITIONS; PUBLIC AGENCY; PUBLIC RECORDS AND
17	DOCUMENTS
18	* * *
19	(c) The following public records are exempt from public inspection and
20	copying:
21	* * *

1	(31) Records of a registered voter's month and day of birth, driver's
2	license or nondriver identification number, telephone number, e-mail address,
3	and the last four digits of his or her Social Security number contained in an
4	application to the statewide voter checklist or the statewide voter checklist
5	established under 17 V.S.A. § 2154 or the failure to register to vote under
6	17 V.S.A. § 2145a.
7	* * *
8	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
9	This act shall take effect on passage.
10	
11	
12	(Committee vote:)
13	
14	Representative
15	FOR THE COMMITTEE