

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 624 entitled “An act relating to the protection of information in the
4 statewide voter checklist” respectfully reports that it has considered the same
5 and recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting
6 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

9 (a) The Secretary of State shall ~~establish~~ maintain a uniform and
10 nondiscriminatory, statewide voter ~~registration~~ checklist. This checklist shall
11 serve as the official voter registration list for all elections in the State. In
12 ~~establishing~~ maintaining the statewide voter checklist, the Secretary shall:

13 (1) limit ~~the~~ a town clerk to adding, modifying, or deleting applicant and
14 voter information on the portion of the checklist for that clerk’s municipality;

15 (2) limit access to the statewide voter checklist for a local elections
16 official to verifying if whether the applicant is registered in another
17 municipality in the State by a search for the individual voter;

18 (3) notify a local elections official when a voter registered in that
19 official’s district registers in another voting district so that the voter may be
20 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 federal agency or commission or to a person
16 acting on behalf of such a federal entity for the purpose of:

17 (A) registration of a voter based on his or her information maintained
18 in the checklist;

19 (B) publicly disclosing a voter's information maintained in the
20 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 or of a municipality’s portion of the statewide voter checklist must
5 swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 65, that
6 the person will not:

7 (A) use the checklist for commercial purposes; or

8 (B) knowingly disclose any voter information maintained in the
9 checklist to any federal agency or commission or to a person acting on behalf
10 of such a federal entity in circumvention of the prohibition set forth in
11 subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

12 (2) The affirmation shall be filed with the Secretary of State.

13 (d) An elections official shall not access the portion of the statewide voter
14 checklist that is exempt from public inspection pursuant to 1 V.S.A.
15 § 317(c)(31), except for elections purposes.

16 Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 317 is amended to read:

17 § 317. DEFINITIONS; PUBLIC AGENCY; PUBLIC RECORDS AND
18 DOCUMENTS

19 * * *

20 (c) The following public records are exempt from public inspection and
21 copying:

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(31) Records of a registered voter’s month and day of birth, driver’s license or nondriver identification number, telephone number, e-mail address, and the last four digits of his or her Social Security number contained in an application to the statewide voter checklist or the statewide voter checklist established under 17 V.S.A. § 2154 or the failure to register to vote under 17 V.S.A. § 2145a.

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Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE