

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 person for the purpose of comparing a voter's
16 information maintained in the checklist to personally identifying information
17 contained in other federal or state databases.

18 (c)(1) Any person wishing to obtain a copy of all of the statewide voter
19 checklist or of a municipality's portion of the statewide voter checklist must
20 swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury pursuant to 13 V.S.A. chapter 65, that
21 the person will not:

1 (A) use the checklist for commercial purposes; or
2 (B) compare a voter's information maintained in the checklist to
3 personally identifying information contained in other federal or state databases
4 or knowingly disclose any voter information maintained in the checklist to
5 another person who would conduct such a comparison.

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

7 (d) An elections official shall not access the portion of the statewide voter
8 checklist that is exempt from public inspection pursuant to 1 V.S.A.

9 § 317(c)(31), except for elections purposes.

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

11 § 317. DEFINITIONS; PUBLIC AGENCY; PUBLIC RECORDS AND

12 DOCUMENTS

13 * * *

14 (c) The following public records are exempt from public inspection and
15 copying:

16 * * *

17 (31) Records of a registered voter's month and day of birth, driver's
18 license or nondriver identification number, telephone number, e-mail address,
19 and the last four digits of his or her Social Security number contained in an
20 application to the statewide voter checklist or the statewide voter checklist

1 established under 17 V.S.A. § 2154 or the failure to register to vote under
2 17 V.S.A. § 2145a.

3 * * *

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.

6

7

8 (Committee vote: _____)

9

10

Representative _____

11

FOR THE COMMITTEE

