

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

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 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended  
6 as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 2, 1 V.S.A. § 317, in subdivision (c)(31), following “and the  
8 last four digits of his or her Social Security number contained in” by striking  
9 out the following: “an application to the statewide voter checklist” and  
10 inserting in lieu thereof the following: ~~an application to the statewide voter~~  
11 ~~checklist~~ a voter registration application

12 Second: By striking out Sec. 3 (effective date) in its entirety and inserting  
13 in lieu thereof the following:

14 Sec. 3. 17 V.S.A. § 2491 is amended to read:

15 § 2491. POLITICAL SUBDIVISION; VOTE TABULATORS

16 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a board of civil  
17 authority may, at a meeting held not less than 60 days prior to an election and  
18 warned pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 801, vote to require the political subdivision  
19 for which it is elected to use vote tabulators for the registering and counting of  
20 votes in subsequent local, primary, or general elections, or any combination of  
21 those.

1 (b) A town with 1,000 or more registered voters as of December 31 in an  
2 even-numbered year shall use vote tabulators for the registering and counting  
3 of votes in subsequent general elections.

4 (c)(1) The Office of the Secretary of State shall pay the following costs  
5 associated with this section by using federal Help America Vote Act funds, as  
6 available:

7 (A) full purchase and warranty cost of vote tabulators, ballot boxes,  
8 and two memory cards for each tabulator;

9 (B) annual maintenance costs of vote tabulators for each town; and

10 (C) the first \$500.00 of the first pair of a vote tabulator's memory  
11 cards' configuration costs for each primary and general election.

12 (2) A town shall pay the remainder of any cost not covered by  
13 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

14 (d)(1) Notwithstanding a town's use of vote tabulators under this section or  
15 any other provision of law, the Secretary of State may suspend the use of vote  
16 tabulators and require the hand count of votes in an election if the Secretary  
17 determines there are reasonable grounds to believe that the vote tabulators to  
18 be used in that election may have been rendered inoperable.

19 (2) Upon such a determination, the Secretary shall alert the clerks of the  
20 affected municipalities of his or her decision as soon as practicable.

1       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

2           This act shall take effect on passage.

3           and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
4       relating to the protection of information in the statewide voter checklist and to  
5       the use of vote tabulators”

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7           (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Senator \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE