

HB 551-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0734

11/05

HOUSE BILL ***551-FN***

AN ACT relative to the statewide voter database.

SPONSORS: Rep. Kofalt, Hills. 4; Rep. Ammon, Hills. 40

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill requires that the statewide centralized voter registration database be made publicly available in electronic format free of charge, provided that the secretary of state may allow for limited exceptions where a compelling reason exists for doing so.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~in brackets and struckthrough~~.
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to the statewide voter database.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Statewide Centralized Voter Registration Database. Amend RSA 654:45, V-VI to read as
2 follows:

3 V. The secretary of state shall:

4 (a) Specify the employees of the department of state authorized to access records
5 contained in the voter database~~[-subject to the limitations of paragraph VI].~~

6 (b) Provide adequate technological security measures to deter unauthorized access to the
7 records contained in the voter database.

8 (c) Issue guidelines to implement the voter database.

9 VI. ~~[The voter database shall be private and confidential and shall not be subject to RSA 91-
10 A and RSA 654:31, nor shall it or any of the information contained therein be disclosed pursuant to a
11 subpoena or civil litigation discovery request. The secretary of state is authorized to provide voter
12 database record data to the administrative office of the courts to assist in the preparation of master
13 jury lists pursuant to RSA 500-A and to the clerk of the District Court of the United States for the
14 District of New Hampshire to assist in the preparation of federal court jury lists. The voter checklist
15 for a town or city shall be available pursuant to RSA 654:31. Any person who discloses information
16 from the voter database in any manner not authorized by this section shall be guilty of a
17 misdemeanor.~~

18 ~~———— VII. The city and town clerk shall enter, maintain, and keep up to date election official
19 contact information and polling place information as determined by the secretary of state in the
20 statewide centralized voter registration database for use by the secretary of state in effecting
21 election laws.]~~ ***The voter database shall be made electronically available to members of the
22 public free of charge, provided that the secretary of state may restrict access to certain
23 information contained in the database where a compelling interest exists for doing so.***

24 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 551-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the statewide voter database.

FISCAL IMPACT: ☒ State ☐ County ☒ Local ☐ None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)	(\$10,000)
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund (RSA 5:6-d) <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Election			

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	(\$90,000)	(\$90,000)	(\$90,000)
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

METHODOLOGY:

This bill would allow free access to the statewide voter database and eliminate the fees currently collected by the Department of State. The Department deposits approximately 10% of these current fees into the state Election Fund and remits 90% of these fees to the towns and cities to help defray the cost of maintaining the database. On average, \$100,000 in revenue is generated from the sale of public checklist information from the statewide voter database every fiscal year. The bill would result in an annual reduction in revenues of approximately \$10,000 for the state and \$90,000 for cities and towns. The Department of State indicates there would be no fiscal impact on the Department's expenditures.

It is assumed this bill would take effect in FY 2022.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of State