

Rep. Lane, Merr. 16
Rep. Berry, Hills. 44
Rep. Wilhelm, Hills. 21
February 10, 2026
2026-0626h
08/09

Amendment to HB 1600-FN

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT relative to access to the centralized voter registration database on election days.

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5 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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7 1 Department of State; Centralized Voter Registration Records. Amend RSA 654:12, VI to read
8 as follows:

9 VI. The department of state shall provide access to data from centralized voter registration
10 records, records from the department of safety, and New Hampshire vital records provided in
11 accordance with RSA 654:45 to assist voters in providing proof of citizenship, age, domicile, and
12 identity to the city and town clerks. The secretary of state [~~shall work with~~] **and** the city and town
13 clerks [~~to ensure access on election day at the polling location~~] **shall ensure that each polling**
14 **place in the state has direct electronic access to the statewide centralized voter**
15 **registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating**
16 **hours of that polling place.** If proof of age, citizenship, domicile, or identity information of a voter
17 is provided pursuant to this section, it shall satisfy that registration requirement for that
18 qualification. Absence of data shall not disqualify a person. It shall be the applicant's responsibility
19 to provide appropriate additional proof of their qualifications as required by this chapter.

20 2 Centralized Voter Registration Database. Amend RSA 654:45 to read as follows:

21 654:45 Centralized Voter Registration Database.

22 I.(a) The secretary of state [~~is authorized to~~] **shall** plan, develop, equip, establish, site, and
23 maintain a statewide centralized voter registration database and communications system,
24 hereinafter referred to as the voter database, connecting users throughout the state. The voter
25 database shall include the current information on the voter registration forms, the accepted absentee
26 ballot applications, the voter checklists, and voter actions as recorded on the marked checklist
27 maintained by each city, ward, and town in the state. The database shall maintain addresses in
28 accordance with United States Postal Service standardized addresses as described in the current
29 USPS Publication 28.

Amendment to HB 1600-FN
- Page 2 -

1 (b) The secretary of state shall provide for a verification process that voters sharing a
2 place and date of birth, along with a substantially similar name to include nicknames or likely
3 maiden/married name changes, are unique voters. Should any voter appear to be a duplicate, that
4 information shall be forwarded to the supervisors of the checklist of the cities or towns involved for
5 review and confirmation. The supervisor of the checklist shall notify the secretary of state of the
6 result of such review, and should the records show that a single individual may have voted more
7 than once in any election such information shall be forwarded to the attorney general for further
8 investigation or prosecution.

9 II. Any election official in the state authorized by this chapter to have direct access to the
10 voter database may obtain immediate electronic access to the information contained in the voter
11 database related to individuals registered or registering to vote in the election official's jurisdiction.
12 The office of the clerk is hereby designated as a database access point for each town or city. The
13 secretary of state may authorize additional database access points in a town or city, **and shall**
14 **provide direct electronic access at each polling place in the state on election day for all**
15 **local, state, and federal elections** [~~including election day access points at polling places~~].

16 III. The voter database shall, upon certification by the secretary of state, be the official
17 record of eligible voters for the conduct of all elections held in this state.

18 IV.(a) The voter database shall have the following minimum components:

19 (1) An electronic communications system that provides access for election officials
20 from at least one point in each city and town within the state **during each calendar year and for**
21 **direct electronic access at each polling place in the state on election day for all local, state,**
22 **and federal elections.**

23 (2) An interactive computer program allowing local election officials access to records
24 contained in the database with a process to add, delete, modify, or print a voter registration record
25 related to the election official's jurisdiction. The system shall be designed so that there can be
26 regular updates to the database, the records reflect the name of each registered voter with no
27 duplication, and the names of ineligible voters are removed. The system shall contain safeguards to
28 ensure that the names of properly registered voters are not removed in error.

29 (b) Voter database record data shall be verified by matching the records with those of
30 the department of safety and the federal Social Security Administration as are required by law, and
31 with the records of the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records. For this
32 purpose the voter registration record database [~~may~~] **shall** be linked to the state agency or division
33 charged with maintaining vital records and the department of safety, provided that no linked agency
34 or division may save or retain voter information or use it for purposes other than verifying the
35 accuracy of the information to be entered or contained in the voter database. The link authorized by
36 this subparagraph shall not allow the department of state or election officials direct access to the
37 motor vehicle registration or driver's license records maintained by the division of motor vehicles;

Amendment to HB 1600-FN
- Page 3 -

1 provided that such link shall authorize the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-
2 state driver's license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license
3 obtained within the deadline provided in RSA 263:35. The secretary of state shall ~~[authorize]~~
4 ***provide, via a secure electronic transmission,*** the release of information from the voter database
5 necessary for the department of safety to notify an individual pursuant to RSA 263:35, II. The
6 commissioner of safety ~~[may authorize the release of]~~ ***shall provide, via a secure electronic***
7 ***transmission,*** information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to the extent
8 that the information is necessary to department of state and department of safety cooperation in a
9 joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records to the extent that the
10 information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies or to complete voter registration. The
11 commissioner of safety and the secretary of state ~~[are authorized to]~~ ***shall*** enter into an agreement
12 that establishes the services to be provided by the department of safety and the cost for those
13 services. ~~[The department of safety shall not be required to provide any services under this~~
14 ~~subparagraph unless an agreement is in place and there are sufficient funds in the election fund to~~
15 ~~pay the cost for the services.]~~ The system shall facilitate the completion, identification, and
16 correction of voter registration records, including but not limited to when a registered voter has died
17 or has been disenfranchised pursuant to part I, article 11 of the New Hampshire constitution or RSA
18 654:5 through RSA 654:6, or when the domicile address does not match the address provided by the
19 same individual to the department of safety or to verify citizenship for voter registration.

20 (c) Access by local election officials to the voter database shall be limited to the
21 supervisors of the checklist, city registrars and deputy registrars, and town or city clerks and their
22 deputies, as determined by the secretary of state. Access by local election officials shall be subject to
23 the limitations of paragraph VI, and shall be limited to the records of individuals who are currently
24 registered to vote in the official's jurisdiction and individuals who are applying to register to vote in
25 the official's jurisdiction.

26 (d) Beginning July 1, 2022, the secretary of state shall, no less than annually, cause
27 voter records to be checked with the United States Postal Service for changes of address. All records
28 identified as moving shall be provided to the city or town supervisors of the checklist for verification
29 pursuant to RSA 654:39, III.

30 V. The secretary of state shall:

31 (a) Specify the employees of the department of state authorized to access records
32 contained in the voter database, subject to the limitations of paragraph VI.

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

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

36 VI. The voter database shall be private and confidential and shall not be subject to RSA 91-
37 A and RSA 654:31, nor shall it or any of the information contained therein be disclosed pursuant to a

Amendment to HB 1600-FN
- Page 4 -

1 subpoena or civil litigation discovery request. The secretary of state is authorized to provide voter
2 database record data to the administrative office of the courts to assist in the preparation of master
3 jury lists pursuant to RSA 500-A and to the clerk of the District Court of the United States for the
4 District of New Hampshire to assist in the preparation of federal court jury lists. The voter checklist
5 for a town or city shall be available pursuant to RSA 654:31. Any person who discloses information
6 from the voter database in any manner not authorized by this section shall be guilty of a
7 misdemeanor.

8 VII. The city and town clerk shall enter, maintain, and keep up to date election official
9 contact information and polling place information as determined by the secretary of state in the
10 statewide centralized voter registration database for use by the secretary of state in effecting
11 election laws.

12 VIII.(a) The secretary of state may enter into an agreement to share voter information or
13 data from the statewide centralized voter registration database for the purpose of comparing
14 duplicate voter information with other states or groups of states. The secretary of state shall only
15 provide information that is necessary for matching duplicate voter information with other states and
16 shall take precautions to make sure that information in the database is secure in a manner
17 consistent with RSA 654:45, VI. The secretary of state [~~may~~] **shall** solicit input from the
18 department of safety and the department of information technology and shall ensure that any
19 information or data shared between the agencies that is of a confidential nature remains
20 confidential.

21 (b) The secretary of state shall investigate any duplicate matches of voters resulting
22 from any comparisons of the statewide centralized voter registration database with other states. If
23 the investigation results in the inability to confirm the eligibility of a person or persons who voted, or
24 there is reason to believe a person or persons voted who were not eligible, the secretary of state shall
25 forward the results to the attorney general for further investigation or prosecution.

26 (c) Upon completion of any investigation authorized under RSA 654:45, VIII(b), the
27 attorney general and the secretary of state shall forward a report summarizing the results of the
28 investigation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, **the**
29 **minority leaders of the house of representatives and the senate**, and the chairpersons of the
30 appropriate house and senate standing committees with jurisdiction over election law.

31 IX. [Repealed.]

32 3 New Paragraph; Motor Vehicles; Records and Certification. Amend RSA 260:14 by inserting
33 after paragraph III-e the following new paragraph:

34 III-f. Motor vehicle records relevant to voter registration shall be provided to the secretary of
35 state pursuant to RSA 654:45. These records may be further transferred by the secretary of state or
36 otherwise made available by the secretary of state to city or town clerks, supervisors of the checklist,
37 or other election officials for purposes of voter registration.

Amendment to HB 1600-FN
- Page 5 -

1 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Amendment to HB 1600-FN
- Page 6 -

2026-0626h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the secretary of state, town, and city clerks to ensure that each polling place in the state has direct electronic access to the statewide centralized voter registration database on each state, local, and federal election day during the operating hours of that polling place.