

**HB 1600-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE**

19Feb2026... 0626h

19Feb2026... 0771h

2026 SESSION

26-3188

08/07

HOUSE BILL            ***1600-FN***

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

SPONSORS:            Rep. Wilhelm, Hills. 21; Rep. Berry, Hills. 44

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

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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.

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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                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

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

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

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

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

13 2 Centralized Voter Registration Database. Amend RSA 654:45 to read as follows:

14 654:45 Centralized Voter Registration Database.

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

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

1 II. Any election official in the state authorized by this chapter to have direct access to the  
2 voter database may obtain immediate electronic access to the information contained in the voter  
3 database related to individuals registered or registering to vote in the election official's jurisdiction.  
4 The office of the clerk is hereby designated as a database access point for each town or city. The  
5 secretary of state may authorize additional database access points in a town or city, including  
6 election day access points at polling places ***during the operational hours of the polling place.***

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

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

10 (1) An electronic communications system that provides access for election officials  
11 from at least one point in each city and town within the state.

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

18 (b) Voter database record data shall be verified by matching the records with those of  
19 the department of safety and the federal Social Security Administration as are required by law, and  
20 with the records of the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records. For this  
21 purpose the voter registration record database ~~[may]~~ ***shall*** be linked to the state agency or division  
22 charged with maintaining vital records and the department of safety, provided that no linked agency  
23 or division may save or retain voter information or use it for purposes other than verifying the  
24 accuracy of the information to be entered or contained in the voter database. The link authorized by  
25 this subparagraph shall not allow the department of state or election officials direct access to the  
26 motor vehicle registration or driver's license records maintained by the division of motor vehicles;  
27 provided that such link shall authorize the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-  
28 state driver's license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license  
29 obtained within the deadline provided in RSA 263:35. The secretary of state shall ~~[authorize]~~  
30 ***provide, via a secure electronic transmission,*** the release of information from the voter database  
31 necessary for the department of safety to notify an individual pursuant to RSA 263:35, II. The  
32 commissioner of safety ~~[may authorize the release of]~~ ***shall provide, via a secure electronic***  
33 ***transmission,*** information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to the extent  
34 that the information is necessary to department of state and department of safety cooperation in a  
35 joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records to the extent that the  
36 information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies or to complete voter registration. The  
37 commissioner of safety and the secretary of state ~~[are authorized to]~~ ***shall*** enter into an agreement

1 that establishes the services to be provided by the department of safety and the cost for those  
2 services. [~~The department of safety shall not be required to provide any services under this~~  
3 ~~subparagraph unless an agreement is in place and there are sufficient funds in the election fund to~~  
4 ~~pay the cost for the services.] The system shall facilitate the completion, identification, and  
5 correction of voter registration records, including but not limited to when a registered voter has died  
6 or has been disenfranchised pursuant to part I, article 11 of the New Hampshire constitution or RSA  
7 654:5 through RSA 654:6, or when the domicile address does not match the address provided by the  
8 same individual to the department of safety or to verify citizenship for voter registration.~~

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

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

19 V. The secretary of state shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 IX. [Repealed.]

22 3 New Paragraph; Motor Vehicles; Records and Certification. Amend RSA 260:14 by inserting  
23 after paragraph III-e the following new paragraph:

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

28 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 30, 2026.

LBA  
26-3188  
03/03/2026

**HB 1600-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
**AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENTS #2026-0626h and #2026-0771h)**

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

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill has no fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures or revenue.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of State