

CHAPTER 277
HB 464 - FINAL VERSION

6Mar2025... 0196h
05/22/2025 2184s
26Jun2025... 2851CofC
26Jun2025... 2918EBA

2025 SESSION

25-0746
08/11

HOUSE BILL

464

AN ACT

prohibiting certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots, enabling the use of certain personal information for determining voter eligibility, and relative to the reporting of low value campaign donations.

SPONSORS: Rep. de Vries, Rock. 29; Rep. H. Howard, Straf. 4

COMMITTEE: Election Law

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Prohibits certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots.
- II. Enables the use of certain personal information collected by other state agencies to be used to determine voter eligibility.
- III. Requires the reporting of low value campaign donations.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT prohibiting certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots, enabling the use of certain personal information for determining voter eligibility, and relative to the reporting of low value campaign donations.

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

1 277:1 Counting Ballots; Election Morning Procedures. Amend RSA 658:31 to read as follows:

2 658:31 Counting Ballots. At or prior to the opening of the polls in each town or ward, the seal of the
3 packages shall be publicly broken by the town or ward clerk; and the ballots shall be given to the ballot
4 clerks and the ballots shall be examined and counted by the election officers in the presence of the clerk,
5 the moderator, and at least one other legal voter. If the ballots are counted prior to the opening of the
6 polls, the clerk shall post, in an appropriate place and prior to election day, notice of the time and place of
7 the counting. ***With the exception of candidates standing for the office of moderator, assistant moderator,***
8 ***clerk, selectperson, inspector of election, and supervisor of the checklist, no person who appears on the***
9 ***ballot shall count ballots prior to the election.***

10 277:2 Voter Database; Components for Voter Eligibility Determination. Amend RSA 654:45, IV(b) to
11 read as follows:

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

CHAPTER 277
HB 464 - FINAL VERSION
- Page 2 -

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

9 277:3 Determining Qualifications of Applicant. Amend RSA 654:12, I(a) to read as follows:

10 (a) CITIZENSHIP. The supervisors of the checklist, or the town or city clerk, shall accept
11 from the applicant any one of the following as proof of citizenship: the applicant's birth certificate,
12 passport, naturalization papers if the applicant is a naturalized citizen, *proof that the applicant was*
13 *previously or is currently registered to vote in a different town or ward in New Hampshire*, or any other
14 reasonable documentation which indicates the applicant is a United States citizen.

15 277:4 Determining Qualifications of Applicant. Amend RSA 654:12, III to read as follows:

16 III. Any person who is applying for registration as a voter and who is currently registered to vote
17 in a different town or ward in New Hampshire shall complete the voter registration form provided for in
18 RSA 654:7. If the election official receiving the application confirms through the centralized voter
19 registration database required by RSA 654:45 *or other official records* that the applicant *was previously or*
20 *is currently registered to vote in New Hampshire*, the applicant shall prove identity and domicile, but shall
21 not be required to prove his or her age or citizenship.

22 277:5 New Paragraph; Centralized Voter Registration Records. Amend RSA 654:12 by inserting
23 after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

24 VI. The department of state shall provide access to data from centralized voter registration
25 records, records from the department of safety, and New Hampshire vital records provided in accordance
26 with RSA 654:45 to assist voters in providing proof of citizenship, age, domicile, and identity to the city
27 and town clerks. The secretary of state shall work with the city and town clerks to ensure access on
28 election day at the polling location. If proof of age, citizenship, domicile, or identity information of a voter
29 is provided pursuant to this section, it shall satisfy that registration requirement for that qualification.
30 Absence of data shall not disqualify a person. It shall be the applicant's responsibility to provide
31 appropriate additional proof of their qualifications as required by this chapter.

32 277:6 Reporting by Political Committees. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 664:6, I to read
33 as follows:

34 I. Any political committee whose receipts or expenditures exceed \$1,000 in an election cycle
35 shall file with the secretary of state an itemized statement, in the form prescribed by the secretary of state,
36 signed by its chairman and treasurer. The \$1,000 threshold shall not apply to political committees
37 renewed under RSA 664:6, V; these political committees shall continue to file until a zero balance is
38 reported. [The] *Except as provided in paragraph VIII, the* statement shall detail the full name and postal
39 address of each contributor in alphabetical order, the amount of the contribution, the date it was received,

CHAPTER 277
HB 464 - FINAL VERSION
- Page 3 -

1 and the aggregate total for each election cycle. For contributors who, in the aggregate, donate \$50 or less
2 in an election cycle, their personal identifying information shall not be publicly available in the secretary of
3 state's campaign finance system, and their personal identifying information shall be exempt from
4 disclosure under RSA 91-A. Any receipts from a contributor with aggregate receipts of \$50 or under shall
5 appear on the statements as unitemized receipts. Any receipt that exceeds a contributor's aggregate total
6 of \$200 for each election cycle shall be reported with the contributor's occupation, the name of the
7 contributor's employer, and the city or town of the contributor's principal place of business, if any. The
8 statement shall also show each expenditure with the full name and postal address of the payee or
9 promisee of payment, the date paid or obligated, whichever occurred first, and the specific nature and
10 amount of each expenditure. Statements shall cover the period beginning the day after the last day
11 covered in the prior statement period up to and including the Sunday before the statement is due, except
12 for the statement in subparagraph (i) below which shall be inclusive through the Tuesday before the
13 statement is due. For a candidate or a political committee of a candidate, as defined in RSA 664, where
14 the candidate has not filed a declaration of candidacy or intent, as defined in RSA 655, for the current
15 election cycle, only subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), and (i) apply. Statements shall be filed not later than 5:00
16 p.m. according to the following schedule:

17 277:7 New Paragraph; Reporting by Political Committee. Amend RSA 664:6 by inserting after
18 paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

19 VIII. Campaign donations at campaign booths at fairs, festivals, or other events, donations to
20 raffles, passing the hat, and other fundraising activities where individual donations do not exceed \$25 and
21 there is no expectation that an individual donor will exceed \$50 over the campaign cycle may be
22 summarized on the candidate's financial report by providing the name of the event, the location of the
23 event, and the amount collected.

24 277:8 Preparation of Master Jury List. Amend RSA 500-A:2 to read as follows:

25 500-A:2 Preparation of Master Jury List. The office shall annually provide to the clerk of court a
26 master jury list for each county or judicial district thereof. A duplicate list shall be retained by the office.
27 Voter lists and department of safety lists, as well as the master jury list, are confidential documents to be
28 used by the office and the respective trial courts only for purposes of jury selection. Voter lists shall
29 contain only the names and addresses of persons listed; additional information, such as date of birth, shall
30 be available to the office only for the purpose of resolving discrepancies in the master jury list. ***Errors***
31 ***identified by the court in the data provided by voter lists and department of safety lists shall be reported to***
32 ***the secretary of state and the department of safety.***

33 277:9 New Paragraph; Social Security Numbers; Driver's License Records. Amend RSA 263:40-a by
34 inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

35 V. Release of information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records is
36 authorized as provided in RSA 654:45, IV.

37 277:10 New Paragraph; Disclosure of Information from Vital Records. Amend RSA 5-C:9 by inserting
38 after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

CHAPTER 277
HB 464 - FINAL VERSION
- Page 4 -

1 X. The New Hampshire department of state, city clerks, town clerks, and supervisors of the
2 checklist shall have a direct and tangible interest in a limited data set of birth, death, marriage, and
3 divorce information of individuals registering to vote and maintaining voter records as provided in RSA
4 654:45, IV.

5 277:11 Registration of Political Committees. Amend RSA 664:3, I(a) to read as follows:

6 (a) Any political committee, except the political committee of a political party, shall register
7 with the secretary of state as provided in this section. Registration shall be made through the secretary of
8 state's online campaign finance system. A political committee may register at any time during the election
9 cycle, but the committee's registration shall be received by the secretary of state not later than 48 hours
10 after the committee meets at least one of the criteria under RSA 664:2, III. ~~[The registration shall be
11 accompanied by an itemized statement of the receipts and expenditures, if any, made by the political
12 committee in the current election cycle prior to registration. Such itemization shall be made pursuant to
13 the manner set forth in RSA 664:6.]~~ The registration shall also be accompanied by an administration fee
14 of \$50, unless exempt pursuant to subparagraph (c), which shall be deposited by the secretary of state
15 into the general fund. ***Registrants shall comply with the reporting requirements contained in RSA 664:6.***

16 277:12 Effective Date.

17 I. Sections 9 and 10 of this act shall take effect on December 31, 2025.

18 II. RSA 654:12, VI as inserted by section 5 of this act shall take effect February 1, 2026.

III. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: August 01, 2025

Effective Date:

I. Sections 9 & 10 effective December 31, 2025

II. RSA 654:12 VI as inserted by section 5 effective February 1, 2026

III. Remainder effective September 30, 2025