House



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate Comm: RCS 04/04/2017

The Committee on Ethics and Elections (Hutson) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 98.075, Florida Statutes, as created by CS/SB 1070, 2017 Regular Session, is amended to read:

98.075 Registration records maintenance activities; ineligibility determinations.-

(2) DUPLICATE REGISTRATION.-

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(b)1. The department may enter into interstate agreements to share and exchange information in order to verify voter registration information. The department shall provide such information to the supervisors to conduct registration list maintenance activities.

2. The department may only participate in an interstate agreement that is controlled and operated by the participating states. The interstate agreement may not be operated or controlled by the Federal Government or any other entity acting on behalf of the Federal Government. The department must be able to withdraw from any interstate agreement entered into at any time.

3. If the department enters into an interstate agreement, the department must submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 of each year. The report must describe the agreement and provide information on the total number of voters removed from the voter registration system as a result of the agreement and the reasons for their removal.

<u>4. Information received by the department, pursuant to an</u> <u>interstate agreement, from another state which is confidential</u> <u>or exempt pursuant to the laws of that state, is exempt from s.</u> <u>119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This</u> <u>subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act</u> <u>in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October</u> <u>2, 2022, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through</u> reenactment by the Legislature.

38 Section 2. <u>The Legislature finds that it is a public</u>
39 <u>necessity that information received by the Department of State</u>,

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40 pursuant to an interstate agreement entered into under s. 98.075(2)(b), Florida Statutes, from another state which is 41 42 confidential or exempt pursuant to the laws of that state be 43 made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), 44 Article I of the State Constitution. Participating in interstate 45 agreements to share and exchange information with other states 46 in order to verify voter registration information is critical to 47 ensuring the accuracy of the statewide voter registration 48 system. Maintaining an accurate statewide voter registration 49 system is critical to fair elections in this state. Without the 50 public records exemption, the department will be unable to 51 receive information from other states that might otherwise be 52 confidential or exempt pursuant to the laws of those states, 53 which would impair the ability of the department and supervisors 54 of elections to maintain accurate voter rolls. As a result, the 55 effective and efficient administration of the statewide voter 56 registration system would be hindered. 57 Section 3. This act shall take effect on the same date that 58 CS/SB 1070 or similar legislation takes effect, if such 59 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an 60 extension thereof and becomes a law. 61 62 And the title is amended as follows: 63 64 Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert: 65 66 A bill to be entitled 67 An act relating to public records; amending s. 98.075, 68 F.S.; creating a public records exemption for certain

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69 information received by the Department of State from 70 another state which is confidential or exempt pursuant 71 to the laws of that state; providing for future 72 legislative review and repeal of the exemption; 73 providing a statement of public necessity; providing a 74 contingent effective date.