



General Assembly

FEBRUARY SESSION, 2018

Raised Bill No. 5173

LCO No. 1242



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF VOTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) (1) Except as provided in
2 subdivision (2) of this subsection, voter registration information
3 maintained pursuant to title 9 of the general statutes by the Secretary
4 of the State and any registrar of voters shall not be used for any
5 personal, private or commercial purpose, including, but not limited to,
6 (A) harassment of any voter or voter's household, (B) advertisement,
7 solicitation, sale or marketing of products or services to any voter or
8 voter's household, or (C) reproduction in print, audio or video
9 broadcast or display on the Internet or any computer terminal.

10 (2) Such voter registration information with respect to any voter
11 shall only be provided, subject to the provisions of sections 54-240 to
12 54-240o, inclusive, (A) for election, primary or referendum conduct
13 purposes, (i) to a candidate for federal, state or local office, to a
14 committee for or against a referendum or to a political party or
15 political committee, (ii) to a person pursuant to subdivision (2) of

16 subsection (b) of this section, or (iii) to an election, primary or
17 referendum official pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this
18 section, (B) for scholarly or journalistic purposes, to a person, or (C) for
19 governmental purposes, as determined by the Secretary of the State, to
20 a government agency. When such information is provided pursuant to
21 subparagraph (A) or (B) of this subdivision, only the year of birth of
22 such voter shall be disclosed, and when such information is provided
23 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, the full date of birth
24 of such voter shall be disclosed.

25 (b) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any
26 motor vehicle operator's license number, identity card number, Social
27 Security number and any other unique identifier used for the purpose
28 of generating a voter registration record or added to such record for
29 compliance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act, P.L.
30 107-252, as amended from time to time, shall be confidential and shall
31 not be disclosed to any person.

32 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
33 signature of any voter on a voter registration record or any image of
34 such signature shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except
35 that an election, primary or referendum official shall permit a person
36 to view such signature for comparison with the signature on a voter
37 registration application, petition or any image of such application or
38 petition. Any signature viewed pursuant to this subdivision shall not
39 be copied.

40 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if a voter
41 submits to the Secretary of the State a signed statement that
42 nondisclosure of such voter's name from the official registry list is
43 necessary for the safety of such voter or the voter's family, the name
44 and address of such voter on a voter registration record shall be
45 confidential and shall not be disclosed, except that an election, primary
46 or referendum official may view such information on the official
47 registry list when such list is used by any such official at a polling
48 place on the day of an election, primary or referendum.

49 (c) (1) No government agency, or any officer or employee of such
50 agency, shall be civilly liable for disclosure of voter registration
51 information in violation of this section, unless such violation was
52 wilful or due to gross negligence.

53 (2) (A) Any person or entity to which voter registration information,
54 including the signature of a voter, has been provided pursuant to
55 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall itself comply with
56 the restrictions contained in this section on disclosure of such voter
57 registration information.

58 (B) Any person or entity that obtains or uses voter registration
59 information, including the signature of a voter, not in accordance with
60 the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a class C felony
61 punishable by a term of imprisonment of not more than ten years and
62 a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To limit the scope of voter registration information available to certain entities and prohibit certain uses of such information.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]