

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 601

2018 Regular Session

Shadoin

ELECTION CODE: Prohibits disclosure by the registrar of voters, clerk of court, and Department of State of information that, if disclosed, may compromise the security of the state voter registration computer system and election management system

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Provides an exception to the prohibition on disclosure of the specified systems information and other related information if access to the system or information is relevant in an action contesting the validity of an election.
2. Provides that, if relevant, counsel and expert witnesses shall not be denied access and further provides that the court may enter a protective order regarding other persons to whom the information may be disclosed.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law (R.S. 18:154) provides that the records of each registrar are public records. Provides for exceptions. Present law (R.S. 18:154(G)) prohibits the registrar, clerk of court, and the Dept. of State from disclosing certain information, including information received from another state pursuant to a cooperative endeavor agreement; geographical coding of addresses of registered voters; or an application to vote absentee by mail, or information contained therein, until the applicant has returned his voted ballot. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law further prohibits the registrar, clerk of court, and the Dept. of State from disclosing computer system or program information, including software, related menus, flow charts, network diagrams, passwords, source materials, prompts, dialogues, operating manuals, programming materials or instructions, and any other computer operating or support materials concerning the state voter registration computer system and election management system or voting equipment, unless access to such computer system or program information is relevant in an action contesting the validity of an election. Provides that, if relevant, counsel and expert witnesses shall not be denied access. Further provides that the court may enter a protective order regarding other persons to whom the information may be disclosed.

Proposed law additionally prohibits the registrar, clerk of court, and the Dept. of State from disclosing any information contained within the state voter registration computer system and election management system which if disclosed may impair the security of the statewide voter registration system and election management system or the integrity of the information maintained on the systems or voting equipment, unless access to such information is relevant in an action contesting the validity of an election. Provides that, if relevant, counsel and expert witnesses shall not be denied access. Further provides that the court may enter a protective order regarding other persons to whom the information may be disclosed.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S.18:154(G)(4) and (5))