CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 601   **2018 Regular Session**   **Shadoin**

May 17, 2018

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 601 by Representative Shadoin, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1.   That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Milkovich (#3917) be rejected.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Rob Shadoin	Senator Karen Carter Peterson
Representative Stephen E. Pugh	Senator Mike Walsworth
Representative Gregory Miller	Senator Sharon Hewitt

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

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

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1.   Provided 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.   Provided that, if relevant, counsel and expert witnesses shall not be denied access and that the court may enter a protective order regarding other persons to whom the information may be disclosed.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Same as passed the House:

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 and 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 and 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.

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

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