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# Committee Report

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**February 20, 2019**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Election Law to which was referred  
HB 593,**

**AN ACT relative to updating official voter checklists.**

**Having considered the same, report the same with the  
following amendment, and the recommendation that the  
bill OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

**Rep. Betty Gay**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Election Law
Bill Number:	HB 593
Title:	relative to updating official voter checklists.
Date:	February 20, 2019
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2019-0473h

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

When NH voters die out of state, many states fail to notify the NH Secretary of State. To keep the voter checklist up to date, this bill with the amendment requires the Supervisors of the Checklist to send appropriately worded "30-day letters" to the family or friends of the voters at their last known address, when their "out-of-state" death has been brought to their attention. When there is no response within 30 days to the letter they have sent to the voter who appears to have died, the Supervisors of the Checklist will remove that voter's name.

Vote 20-0.

Rep. Betty Gay  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Election Law

**HB 593**, relative to updating official voter checklists. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Betty Gay for Election Law. When NH voters die out of state, many states fail to notify the NH Secretary of State. To keep the voter checklist up to date, this bill with the amendment requires the Supervisors of the Checklist to send appropriately worded "30-day letters" to the family or friends of the voters at their last known address, when their "out-of-state" death has been brought to their attention. When there is no response within 30 days to the letter they have sent to the voter who appears to have died, the Supervisors of the Checklist will remove that voter's name. **Vote 20-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HB 593 REP. Betty Gay

When NH voters die out of state, many states fail to notify the NH Secretary of State.

To keep the voter checklist up to date, the supervisors of the checklist must send appropriately worded "30-day letters" to the family or friends of the voters at their last known address, when their "out-of-state" death has been brought to their attention. When there is no response within 30 days to the letter they have sent to the voter who appears to have died, the supervisors of the checklist will remove that voter's name.

gl  
per  
per  
etc

Rep. Gay, Rock. 8  
February 12, 2019  
2019-0473h  
11/08

Amendment to HB 593

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

2

3 1 New Sections; Unofficial Reports of Death. Amend RSA 654 by inserting after section 37 the  
4 following new sections:

5 654:37-a Unofficial Reports of Death. If the supervisors of the checklist learn of the death of a  
6 voter but do not receive notice as outlined in RSA 654:37, they shall mail to the last known address  
7 of the voter a 30-day letter specifically for updating the checklist upon the death of a voter. Such  
8 letter shall include the contact information for the supervisors' of the checklist to which a response  
9 may be sent. If there is no response within 30 days, the supervisors will remove that voter's name  
10 from the checklist. If there is a response confirming the death within 30 days, the supervisors may  
11 remove the voter's name upon receipt of the confirmation of death.

# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 593

**BILL TITLE:** relative to updating official voter checklists.

**DATE:** February 21, 2019

**LOB ROOM:** 308

**MOTIONS:** OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

Moved by Rep. Gay

Seconded by Rep. Ward

AM Vote: Voice Vote

Amendment # 2019-0473h

Moved by Rep. Gay

Seconded by Rep. Lang

Vote: 20-0

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,



Rep Edith DesMarais, Clerk



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 593

BILL TITLE: relative to updating official voter checklists.

DATE: 2/24/11

LOB ROOM: 308

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of 2019  
Amendment # 04734  
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Gay                      Seconded by Rep. Ward                      Vote: W Aye

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       OTP/A                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of  
Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Gay                      Seconded by Rep. Lang                      Vote: 20-0

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       OTP/A                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of  
Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       OTP/A                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of  
Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSENT CALENDAR:  YES                       NO

Minority Report? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No                      If yes, author, Rep: \_\_\_\_\_                      Motion \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted: Edith M. DesMarais  
Rep Edith DesMarais, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 593

**BILL TITLE:** relative to updating official voter checklists.

**DATE:** February 13, 2019

**LOB ROOM:** 308

**MOTIONS:** ADOPTED AMENDMENT

Moved by Rep. Gay

Seconded by Rep. Hoelzel

AM Vote: YEA V Vote

Amendment # 2019-0473h

NO FUTHER MOTIONS,  
EXEC SESSION RECESSED to 2/21/19

Respectfully submitted,



Rep Edith DesMarais, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 593

BILL TITLE: relative to updating official voter checklists.

DATE: 2/13/19

LOB ROOM: 308

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of 2019-  
Amendment # 0473h  
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Gay                      Seconded by Rep. Hoozel                      Vote: VV Aye

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- Withdrawn Motion  
Recess to 2/20/19 VV Aye*
- OTP                       OTP/A                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of  
Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
(if offered)
  - Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. Gay                      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       OTP/A                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of  
Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP                       OTP/A                       ITL                       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)                       Adoption of  
Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  
(if offered)
- Interim Study (2nd year)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_                      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSENT CALENDAR:    \_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_ NO

Minority Report?    \_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_ No    If yes, author, Rep: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted: Edith M. DesMarais  
Rep Edith DesMarais, Clerk



2019 SESSION

Election Law

Bill #: 593 Motion: OTPA AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 2-20-19

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Cote, David E. Chairman	20		
Moynihan, Wayne T. Vice Chairman	1		
Ward, Gerald W.R.	2		
Pearson, William A.	3		
DesMarais, Edith M. Clerk	4		
Komi, Richard N.	5		
Bergeron, Paul R.	6		
Sandler, Catt	7		
Hamer, Heidi M.	8		
Higgins, Peg	9		
Lane, Connie B.	10		
Morrill, David J.	11		
Hoelzel, Kathleen M.	12		
Gay, Betty I.	13		
Lang, Timothy P.	14		
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine T.	15		
Hayward, Peter T.	16		
Merlino, Timothy A. <i>Mermer</i>	17		
Owens, Becky A. <i>PLETT</i>	18		
Rooney, Abigail G.	19		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	

Rep. Gay, Rock. 8  
February 12, 2019  
2019-0473h  
11/08

Amendment to HB 593

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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3 1 New Sections; Unofficial Reports of Death. Amend RSA 654 by inserting after section 37 the  
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5 654:37-a Unofficial Reports of Death. If the supervisors of the checklist learn of the death of a  
6 voter but do not receive notice as outlined in RSA 654:37, they shall mail to the last known address  
7 of the voter a 30-day letter specifically for updating the checklist upon the death of a voter. Such  
8 letter shall include the contact information for the supervisors' of the checklist to which a response  
9 may be sent. If there is no response within 30 days, the supervisors will remove that voter's name  
10 from the checklist. If there is a response confirming the death within 30 days, the supervisors may  
11 remove the voter's name upon receipt of the confirmation of death.

# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 593

BILL TITLE: relative to updating official voter checklists.

DATE: January 30, 2019

LOB ROOM: 308

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 12:25pm

Time Adjourned: 12:27pm

Committee Members: Reps. Cote, Moynihan, DesMarais, Ward, W. Pearson, Komi, Bergeron, Sandler, Hamer, Higgins, Lane, Morrill, Hoelzel, Gay, Lang, Prudhomme-O'Brien, Hayward, Merlino, Owens and Rooney

Bill Sponsors:

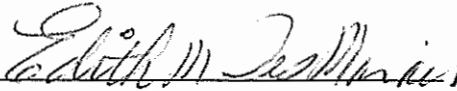
Rep. Gay

Rep. McBride

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.  
Rep Hoelzel introduced the bill.

Respectfully submitted by: Rep DesMarais









# Bill as Introduced

HB 593 - AS INTRODUCED

2019 SESSION

19-0667  
11/05

HOUSE BILL           **593**

AN ACT               relative to updating official voter checklists.

SPONSORS:           Rep. Gay, Rock. 8; Rep. McBride, Rock. 8

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill outlines procedures that supervisors of the checklist must follow when they receive informal reports that a voter has died or has changed address.

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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.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen*

AN ACT relative to updating official voter checklists.

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

1 1 New Sections; Unofficial Reports of Change of Address or Death. Amend RSA 654 by  
2 inserting after section 37 the following new sections:

3 654:37-a Unofficial Reports of Change of Address.

4 I. If the supervisors of the checklist learn of the change of address of a voter but do not  
5 receive notice as outlined in RSA 654:36-b or RSA 654:37, they shall mail a letter to the last known  
6 address of the voter, addressed to the voter, that contains the following requests:

7 (a) An indication as to whether the voter in question has moved and, if known and as  
8 applicable, the current address.

9 (b) The signature of the person completing the information outlined in subparagraph  
10 (a).

11 II. Upon return of the completed letter pursuant to paragraph I, the supervisors shall:

12 (a) Attempt to confirm the new address of the voter in question.

13 (b) In the event the voter has moved, follow the provisions of RSA 654:36-b for removal  
14 of the name of the voter from the checklist.

15 654:37-b Unofficial Reports of Death.

16 I. If the supervisors of the checklist learn of the death of a voter but do not receive notice as  
17 outlined in RSA 654:36-b or RSA 654:37, they shall mail a letter to the last known address of the  
18 voter addressed to the "family of (insert voter's name)" which contains a separate letter addressed  
19 back to the supervisors of the checklist containing the following requests, written as  
20 compassionately as possible:

21 (a) An indication as to whether the addressee has died and, if known, the place of death,  
22 and any note the responding person may add.

23 (b) The signature of the person completing the information outlined in subparagraph  
24 (a).

25 II. Upon return of the completed letter outlined in paragraph I, the supervisors shall:

26 (a) Attempt to verify the death of the voter in question.

27 (b) In the event the voter has died, follow the provisions of RSA 654:37 for removal of  
28 the name of the voter from the checklist.

29 2 Voters and Checklists; Removing Names from the Checklist; Notice Required. Amend RSA  
30 654:44, II to read as follows:

31 II. The provisions of this section do not apply to the removal of the names of persons for

HB 593 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 whom the supervisors have received a report of transfer or death as provided in RSA 654:36, [ex]  
2 654:37, *or 654:37-a*, nor to the removal of names during the period for verification of the checklist  
3 as provided in RSA 654:38 or 654:39, nor to the removal of names of persons for whom they have  
4 received a notice from a duly authorized board of registration from a community outside New  
5 Hampshire stating that a person whose name is on the checklist of the town or ward in New  
6 Hampshire has registered to vote outside New Hampshire.

7       3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.