

Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

March 8, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Majority of the Committee on Election Law to
which was referred HB 285,**

AN ACT relative to verification of voter checklists.

**Having considered the same, report the same with the
recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

MAJORITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Election Law
Bill Number:	HB 285
Title:	relative to verification of voter checklists.
Date:	March 8, 2021
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill proposes to modify the procedure for maintenance of an accurate vote checklist. It codifies what should be a regular process of removing invalid voters on the list such as deceased voters, duplicate names and people who have moved. The bill does this by directing the Secretary of State to inform town or city election officials about incomplete and partial voter records received by the Division of Vital Records when a voter dies. This will enable local officials to investigate and further ascertain if those names should be removed from the local checklist. It also directs the Division of Motor Vehicles, when they receive an address change from a licensed driver, to inform the election officials in that community of both the previous address and new address to facilitate maintenance of the checklist. Finally, this bill also directs the Secretary of State to maintain records in accordance with United States Postal Service standardized address system, aiding in the accuracy of records throughout all databases and reducing duplications. The majority of the committee believes this will help maintain checklist records on a regular basis and avoid a lot of maintenance that occurs on election day.

Vote 11-9.

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Election Law

HB 285, relative to verification of voter checklists. **MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien for the **Majority** of Election Law. This bill proposes to modify the procedure for maintenance of an accurate vote checklist. It codifies what should be a regular process of removing invalid voters on the list such as deceased voters, duplicate names and people who have moved. The bill does this by directing the Secretary of State to inform town or city election officials about incomplete and partial voter records received by the Division of Vital Records when a voter dies. This will enable local officials to investigate and further ascertain if those names should be removed from the local checklist. It also directs the Division of Motor Vehicles, when they receive an address change from a licensed driver, to inform the election officials in that community of both the previous address and new address to facilitate maintenance of the checklist. Finally, this bill also directs the Secretary of State to maintain records in accordance with United States Postal Service standardized address system, aiding in the accuracy of records throughout all databases and reducing duplications. The majority of the committee believes this will help maintain checklist records on a regular basis and avoid a lot of maintenance that occurs on election day. **Vote 11-9.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

March 8, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Minority of the Committee on Election Law to
which was referred HB 285,**

AN ACT relative to verification of voter checklists.

**Having considered the same, and being unable to agree
with the Majority, report with the following resolution:**

RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Paul Bergeron

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

MINORITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Election Law
Bill Number:	HB 285
Title:	relative to verification of voter checklists.
Date:	March 8, 2021
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill requires the Secretary of State to notify city and town clerks of possible voter registration duplications and requires that the clerks conduct an undefined “investigation” to determine if an individual voted more than once in any election. City and town clerks do not have access to another community’s voter history data. The Secretary of State would be able to 1) identify possible voter registration duplication, and 2) determine if that individual voted more than once in any election, but that is not what this bill proposes to do. The procedure proposed by the bill will come with a cost. It requires the voter registration database to list addresses in accordance with US Postal Service Pub. 28. That publication requires the use of Postal Service ZIP+4 and will necessitate changes to the database to provide ZIP+4 search-and-populate field capabilities. The bill also directs the Division of Motor Vehicles to notify city and town clerks of all address changes received for all NH citizens. This bill does not include a fiscal note estimating costs that will be incurred by the Secretary of State, the Department of Safety, or city and town clerks.

Rep. Paul Bergeron
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Election Law

HB 285, relative to verification of voter checklists. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Paul Bergeron for the **Minority** of Election Law. This bill requires the Secretary of State to notify city and town clerks of possible voter registration duplications and requires that the clerks conduct an undefined “investigation” to determine if an individual voted more than once in any election. City and town clerks do not have access to another community’s voter history data. The Secretary of State would be able to 1) identify possible voter registration duplication, and 2) determine if that individual voted more than once in any election, but that is not what this bill proposes to do. The procedure proposed by the bill will come with a cost. It requires the voter registration database to list addresses in accordance with US Postal Service Pub. 28. That publication requires the use of Postal Service ZIP+4 and will necessitate changes to the database to provide ZIP+4 search-and-populate field capabilities. The bill also directs the Division of Motor Vehicles to notify city and town clerks of all address changes received for all NH citizens. This bill does not include a fiscal note estimating costs that will be incurred by the Secretary of State, the Department of Safety, or city and town clerks.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Archived: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:18:25 AM

From: [Katherine Prudhomme O'Brien](#)

Sent: Friday, March 26, 2021 10:46:28 AM

To: [Barbara Griffin](#)

Cc: [Miriam Simmons](#)

Subject: HB 285 Majority report

Response requested: No

Importance: Normal

HB 285

This bill will clean up voting rolls and aid in the removal of deceased voters, duplicate names and people who have moved. It directs the Secretary of State to inform town or city election officials about incomplete and partial voter records received by the division of vital records when a voter dies, enabling the local officials to investigate and further ascertain if those names should be removed from the local checklist. It directs the Division of Motor Vehicles to inform the election officials in a community of a both a voter's previous address and new address when an address change is made with the DMV.

This bill also directs the Secretary of State to maintain records in accordance with United States Postal Service standardization, aiding in the accuracy of records throughout all databases and reducing duplications.

Rep Katherine Prudhomme O'Brien

Archived: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:18:25 AM

From: [Miriam Simmons](#)

Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 9:49:40 AM

To: [Miriam Simmons](#)

Subject: FW: Minority report for HB 285

Response requested: No

Importance: Normal

From: Paul Bergeron <Paul.Bergeron@leg.state.nh.us>

Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 7:40 PM

To: Miriam Simmons <miriam.simmons@leg.state.nh.us>

Cc: David Cote <david.cote@leg.state.nh.us>; Barbara Griffin <Barbara.Griffin@leg.state.nh.us>; Pam Smarling <Pam.Smarling@leg.state.nh.us>

Subject: Minority reports for HB98 and HB 285

Miriam:

Following are the minority reports for HB98 and HB 285. Representative Cote has reviewed and approved these reports. Thank you.

HB 285, relative to verification of voter checklists.

Representative Paul R. Bergeron for the Minority.

HB 285 requires the secretary of state to notify city and town clerks of possible voter registration duplications and requires that the clerks conduct an undefined "investigation" to determine if an individual voted more than once in any election. City and town clerks do not have access to another community's voter history data. The secretary of state would be able to 1) identify possible voter registration duplication, and 2) determine if that individual voted more than once in any election, but that is not what HB285 proposes to do. HB 285 will come with a cost. It requires that the voter registration database maintain addresses in accordance with USPS Pub. 28. That publication requires the use of Postal Service ZIP+4 and will necessitate changes to the database to provide ZIP+4 search-and-populate field capabilities. The bill also directs DMV to notify city and town clerks of all address changes received for all NH citizens. HB285 does not include a fiscal note estimating costs that will be incurred by the secretary of state, the department of safety, or city and town clerks.

Rep. Paul R. Bergeron
NH Hillsborough 29

Nashua Ward 2

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 285

BILL TITLE: relative to verification of voter checklists.

DATE: March 8, 2021

LOB ROOM: Remote / Hybrid

MOTIONS: **OUGHT TO PASS**

Moved by Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien Seconded by Rep. Mooney

Vote: 11-9

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Natalie Wells, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # HB 285

BILL TITLE: Relative to Verification of Voter checklists.

DATE: 3/8/21

LOB ROOM: 306

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☒ OTP ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of
Amendment # _____
☐ Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Rudhamr O'Brien Seconded by Rep. Nooney Vote: 11-9

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of
Amendment # _____
☐ Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of
Amendment # _____
☐ Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

☐ OTP ☐ OTP/A ☐ ITL ☐ Retain (1st year) ☐ Adoption of
Amendment # _____
☐ Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: _____ YES _____ NO

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

Respectfully submitted: Rep. Natalie Wells.
Rep Natalie Wells, Clerk



1/21/2021 9:37:57 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

2021 SESSION

Election Law

Bill #: H 2265 Motion: OTF AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 3/8/21

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman	✓		
MacDonald, Wayne D. Vice Chairman	✓		
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine J.	✓		
Sweeney, Joe	✓		
Hayward, Peter T.	✓		
Mooney, Maureen C.	✓		
Torosian, Peter E.	✓		
Berry, Ross	✓		
Groen, Fenton	✓		
Qualey, James R.	✓		
Wells, Natalie J. Clerk	✓		
Cote, David E.		✓	
Ward, Gerald W.R. <i>Megan Murray</i>		✓	
Bergeron, Paul R.		✓	
Sandler, Catt		✓	
Hamer, Heidi M.		✓	
Lane, Connie B.		✓	
Freitas, Mary C.		✓	
Hamblet, Joan L.		✓	
Muirhead, Russell		✓	
TOTAL VOTE:	11	9	

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 285

BILL TITLE: relative to verification of voter checklists.

DATE: February 12, 2021

LOB ROOM: LOB Hybrid **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:30 am.

Time Adjourned: 11:09 a.m.

Committee Members: Reps. B. Griffin, W. MacDonald, Wells, Prudhomme-O'Brien, Sweeney, Hayward, Mooney, Torosian, Berry, Groen, Qualey, Cote, Ward, Bergeron, Sandler, Hamer, Lane, Freitas, Hamblet and Muirhead

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Layon

Rep. Love

Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien

Rep. Potucek

Rep. Thomas

Sen. Birdsell

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

The hearing on HB 285 opened at 10:30AM. / 11:09 am.

1. Rep. Erica Layon, the prime sponsor from Rockingham #6, testified.

She said that deceased people are still on checklists. This bill will step up the minimum standard in accordance with NH Constitution Art. 11, Part First. Leaving deceased voters on a checklist could lead to fraud. The "ten year clean" is a safety valve but not a solution. She worked with the Town Clerk who appreciated efforts to clean sooner than 10 years. She didn't talk to the DMV. Approximately 100 potential voters who had passed away in Derry were discovered as still on the list. The towns would be notified of matches of deceased voters. Rep. Layon submitted her testimony via email to the Committee.

2. Ellis Robinson testified as being pleased with the bill. Her first suggestion is in section 4 (I)(a). Currently, the voter database doesn't include a date of registration. Her second suggestion is that voter information follows the voter. She said more attention needs to be paid when people are moving from one town to another.

3. Rep. Doug Thomas is a co-sponsor who supports the bill. He is from Rockingham #5. He was pleased to see that Londonderry already does practices outlined in HB 285. The bill was a bipartisan effort.

4. Dave Scanlan, the Deputy Secretary of State, testified. He didn't see anything in the bill that is a problem. Locally elected people oversee the checklist. The Division of Vital Records receives death certificates available for the Supervisors of the Checklist. Only Supervisors of the Checklist can change lists. Within 30 days, a letter sent by the Supervisor is sent to check on inactive voters. Mr. Scanlan suggested he give the Committee a presentation on the voter database.

5. Louise Spencer from Concord, NH testified. She said the cross-check process was time consuming with all the "false positives" that come up. She suggested using the ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) System that is used in 30 states. The information found in this system is the most up-to-date information. She will send more information on the ERIC System to the Committee.

6. **Lucas Meyer testified on behalf of himself.** He said that the ERIC System will save the state and communities time and money for a cost of approximately \$20-25K per year. The ERIC System will comb through the data.

The hearing adjourned at 11:09AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rep. Maureen Mooney
Acting Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

* REP. ERICA LAYOU- SPONSOR.
ELLIS ROBINSON
* REP DOUG THOMAS CO-SPONSOR
DAVE SCANLON DEPUTY SDS
LOUISE SPENCER
LUCAS MEYER

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING on Bill # HB 285

BILL TITLE:

DATE:

Relative to verification of voter checklists -
2-12-21

ROOM: 306

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 10:30AM.

Time Adjourned: 11:09AM

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. B. Griffin, W. MacDonald, Wells, Prudhomme-O'Brien, Sweeney, Hayward, Mooney, Torosian, Berry, Groen, Qualey, Cote, Ward, Bergeron, Sandler, Hamer, Lane, Freitas, Hamblet and Muirhead

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

* REP. ERICA LAYOU - SPONSOR.

ELLIS ROBINSON

* REP DOUG THOMAS CO-SPONSOR

DAVE SCANLON DEPUTY SDS

LOUISE SPENCER

LUCAS MEYER

Hearing Notes on HB 285 - Feb. 12, 2021:

The hearing on HB 285 opened at 10:30AM.

Rep. Erica Layon, the prime sponsor from Rockingham #6, testified.

She said that deceased people are still on checklists. This bill will step up the minimum standard in accordance with NH Constitution Art. 11, Part First. Leaving deceased voters on a checklist could lead to fraud. The "ten year clean" is a safety valve but not a solution. She worked with the Town Clerk who appreciated efforts to clean sooner than 10 years. She didn't talk to the DMV. Approximately 100 potential voters who had passed away in Derry were discovered as still on the list. The towns would be notified of matches of deceased voters. Rep. Layon submitted her testimony via email to the Committee.

Ellis Robinson testified as being pleased with the bill. Her first suggestion is in section 4 (I)(a). Currently, the voter database doesn't include a date of registration. Her second suggestion is that voter information follows the voter. She said more attention needs to be paid when people are moving from one town to another.

Rep. Doug Thomas is a co-sponsor who supports the bill. He is from Rockingham #5. He was pleased to see that Londonderry already does practices outlined in HB 285. The bill was a bipartisan effort.

Dave Scanlan, the Deputy Secretary of State, testified. He didn't see anything in the bill that is a problem. Locally elected people oversee the checklist. The Division of Vital Records receives death certificates available for the Supervisors of the Checklist. Only Supervisors of the Checklist can change lists. Within 30 days, a letter sent by the Supervisor is sent to check on inactive voters. Mr. Scanlan suggested he give the Committee a presentation on the voter database.

Louise Spencer from Concord, NH testified. She said the cross-check process was time consuming with all the "false positives" that come up. She suggested using the ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center) System that is used in 30 states. The information found in this system is the most up-to-date information. She will send more information on the ERIC System to the Committee.

Lucas Meyer testified on behalf of himself. He said that the ERIC System will save the state and communities time and money for a cost of approximately \$20-25K per year. The ERIC System will comb through the data.

The hearing closed at 11:09AM.

Rep. Maureen Mooney

Serving the Town of Merrimack ~ Hills. Co. #21

P.O. Box 1676

Merrimack, NH 03054-1676

Cellular: (603) 233-0319

Google Voice: (978) 233-1039

Email: Rep.Maureen.Mooney@gmail.com OR Maureen.Mooney@leg.state.nh.us

House Remote Testify

Election Law Committee Testify List for Bill HB285 on 2021-02-12

Support: 32 Oppose: 9 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 3

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>§</u>
Layon, Erica	erica.layon@leg.state.nh.us	603.479.9595	An Elected Official	Myself - Prime Sponsor	Support	Yes (3m)	2
Robinson, Ellis	ellismmrobinson@gmail.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (3m)	2
Thomas, Doug	doug.thomasnh@gmail.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	Yes (1m)	2
Rathbun, Eric	ericsrathbun@gmail.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Harley, Tina	tianalh@hotmail.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Pray, Danielle	dapsrp@gmail.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Ankarberg, Aidan	Aidan201@yahoo.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Kaczynski, Thomas	hampoul@metrocast.net	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Howard Jr., Raymond	brhowardjr@yahoo.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
karen, Dewey	pkdewey@comcast.net	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Shaw, Autumn	autumncshaw@gmail.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
McConkey, Mark	mrkmcconkey@gmail.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Terry, Paul	paul.terry@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Greene, Bob	bob.greene@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
greeson, jeffrey	jeffrey.greeson@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Abbas, Daryl	daryl.abbas@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Rockingham / District 8	Support	No	2
Berezhny, Rep. Lex	lex@berezhny.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Grafton District 9	Support	No	2
Lewicke, John	john.lewicke@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Lynn, Bob	rjlynn4@gmail.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Sheehan, Vanessa	vsheehan16@yahoo.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Folsom, Beth	beth.folsom@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
dostie, donald	dadostietrucking@gmail.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Smith, Jonathan	jhsmithnh5@gmail.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Littlefield, Richard	littlefieldfornh@outlook.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Love, Rep.David	davidlove4rep@gmail.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Rockingham 6	Support	No	2
Binford, David	David.Binford@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself and Constituents	Support	No	2
THEBERGE, ROBERT	rolath@hotmail.com	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Piemonte, Tony	tony.piemonte@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Minihan, Jeremiah	Jeremiah.minihan@gmail.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Johnston, Cordell	cjohnston@nhmunicipal.org	111.111.1111	A Lobbyist	NH Municipal Association	Oppose	No	2
McCalley, Jennifer	jenniferamccalley@gmail.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Bruce, Susan	susanb.red@mac.com	603.730.7078	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Cote, Lois	lcote06@outlook.com	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Beaudoin, Jennifer	jenniferbeaudoin@comcast.net	111.111.1111	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Osborne, Jason	houserepoffice@leg.state.nh.us	111.111.1111	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Potucek, John	potucek1@comcast.net	603.432.9049	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Birdsell, Senator Regina	regina.birdsell@leg.state.nh.us	603.271.2609	An Elected Official	Senate District 19	Support	No	2
Pearson, Mark	canonpearson@yahoo.com	603.571.0205	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Hatcher, Phil	phil.hatcher@gmail.com	603.988.8034	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Gould, Rep. Linda	lgouldr@myfairpoint.net	603.472.3877	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Grossi, Anne	adgrossi7982@gmail.com	603.674.1181	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2

Testimony

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:40:35 AM

From: [Douglas Thomas](#)


Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 11:13:46 PM

To: [~House Election Law Committee](#)

Subject: [CAUTION: SUSPECT SENDER] NH House Remote Testify: 9:30 am - CACR4 in House Election Law

Importance: Normal

Attachments:

[Testimony HB285-Thomas.docx](#) 

House Election Law Committee:

Written testimony attached on HB285.

Doug Thomas

603-490-3226

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:40:35 AM
From: [David Love](#)
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 8:15:41 AM
To: [~House Election Law Committee](#)
Subject: HB285
Importance: Normal

Good morning Madam Chair and Committee members.

My name is Representative David Love and I represent Rockingham County, district 6

I'm writing in support of HB285 .

HB 285 is a step forward in the fight to insure voter integrity.

Three years ago, after the passing of my mother, I went to the Derry town hall ,death certificate in hand with the intention of quickly having my mother's name removed from the voting list.

I went to the Town Clerks window and proceeded to ask that she be removed.

I was told that they didn't do that ,nor did State law require them to do so .The women told me that my mothers name would have to "rotate out " and that after not voting in three consecutive elections, her name would be automatically removed.

I found this to be unacceptable.

I called the Secretary of State office and explained my dilemma.

They more or less told me that current law was vague and being misinterpreted.

HB 285 will clear up ,and specify the solution to this problem.

Election integrity is at the very core of Liberty and to have even one vote canceled out buy someone voting in a diseaced persons name is a proverbial nail in the coffin of Liberty.

Thank you for taking and reading my testimony.

Representative David Love..Rockingham 6

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:40:35 AM
From: [Erica Layon](#)
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 4:04:12 PM
To: [~House Election Law Committee](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of HB285 - Prime Sponsor
Importance: Normal

Thank you Madame Chairman. And thank you honorable members of the House Election Law Committee.

For the record I am Representative Erica Layon, Rockingham District 6, Derry, and I am the prime sponsor of HB285.

How many dead people are still on the checklist in your town? The Derry Supervisors of the Checklist removed over 40 dead voters this fall that weren't caught by the current system. How many slip through the cracks in your town or city?

This isn't through lack of effort from our Supervisors, just a culture of following the minimum prescription in the law. And I understand the WHY. But these good intentions lead to a bloated checklist – one with costs both in dollar figures and in the right to cast one whole vote.

HB 285 will step up that minimum standard, bringing it in line with towns like Londonderry which take a more proactive approach and actively use the notification system.

Voter disenfranchisement is a serious issue.

Our checklist protects the right of each inhabitant in the state to have an equal right to vote in any election, which is spelled out in the New Hampshire Constitution, Article 11 Part 1. Allowing duplicate or out of date names on the checklist violates this right because this dilutes the equality of each valid vote.

Many towns and cities follow the minimum requirements, concerned about the risk of potentially removing a valid voter. That is understandable, but that misses a larger point.

Leaving invalid voters on the checklist means that there is a honeypot for dishonest people, ... , and if this leads to fraud it will deny equal representation to the qualified voters!

This too is disenfranchisement.

HB285 provides the checks needed to protect this sacred right for each voter to cast one whole vote.

As you look through this bill, the cost of annually running the list through the National Change of Address system will come to mind. I'm sure the cost of more mailings will too.

I believe that we can and should invest in free and fair elections, however I believe that fixing our bloated checklists will save money too. As you are well aware, many voting procedures like the count of voting booths is proscribed based upon the number of voters on the checklist.

The 4,000 residents flagged as permanently moved from Derry in my check of 24,000 names on the checklist represents one sixth of the list! That is a lot of extra capacity at elections which comes at a real cost. Cleaning the checklist every 10 years is a safety valve, not a solution.

HB285 presents a solution to drive ongoing maintenance of the checklist, add standardization of addresses which is needed, and to check the list annually for permanent moves.

The cost of HB285 should be neutral.

The cost of NOT passing HB285 could mean that your vote only counts as [5/6th](#) of a vote. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass.

Representative Erica Layon
Education Committee
Erica.layon@leg.state.nh.us
(603) 479-9595

Testimony to Election Law Committee

HB 285 relative to verification of voter checklists

Rep. Doug Thomas, Londonderry, Rockingham 5 (Feb. 12, 2021)

Good Morning and thank you, Chair Griffin and committee members, for giving me opportunity to testify in support of HB285.

It is my strong belief that having an accurate voter registration list is necessary and critical to ensuring confidence with the voting public that only those who can legally vote in our state and federal elections do so.

This bill deals with the process of keeping the voter list up to date on a regular basis. Rep Layon has already provided the details so I just wanted to add some background information.

The committee should know that Londonderry's Town Clerk and the Supervisor of the Checklist work very well together to upkeep the voter list. Rep Layon and I met with Ms. Kirsten Hildonen, Londonderry's Supervisor of the Checklist and discussed the practices used. HB285 reflects the best practices from that discussion and others that I feel can be codified for statewide use.

I do not know what processes other towns use and to be sure, this is not a panacea, but I believe these modest additions to the current law will form a solid foundation from which even more improvements can develop.

I know that Londonderry's bipartisan voter checklist team works diligently and frequently with our town clerk to update the list. They are in full support of this bill. It is my hope the committee finds this bill as a positive step for others to follow and votes Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Doug Thomas
State Representative, Londonderry

Bill as Introduced

HB 285 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0529

11/08

HOUSE BILL **285**

AN ACT relative to verification of voter checklists.

SPONSORS: Rep. Layon, Rock. 6; Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien, Rock. 6; Rep. Thomas, Rock. 5;
Rep. Love, Rock. 6; Rep. Potucek, Rock. 6; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the procedures for ongoing verification of the information contained in voter checklists.

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 Twenty One

AN ACT relative to verification of voter checklists.

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

1 1 Vital Records Administration; Secretary of State; Duties. Amend RSA 5-C:4, IV to read as
2 follows:

3 IV. The secretary of state shall compare information contained on each death record
4 received by the division of vital records with information contained in the statewide centralized voter
5 registration database and submit to the state registrar a list of every city or town that has a
6 registered voter matching the decedent's information. ***Where there is not a full match of name,***
7 ***date of birth, and residence, the secretary of state shall provide information of partial***
8 ***matches for further investigation by the town or city pursuant to paragraph V.***

9 2 Division of Motor Vehicles; Change of Address; Notification. Amend RSA 261:55, I to read as
10 follows:

11 I. Whenever any person after making application for or obtaining the registration of a
12 vehicle shall move from the address or change the postal address named in the application or shown
13 on a registration certificate or certificate of title, such person shall within 30 days thereafter notify
14 the division in writing of his or her old and new address. ***The division shall then inform both the***
15 ***clerk in the town or city in which the new address is located and the clerk in the town or***
16 ***city in which the previous address was located of the change to facilitate periodic***
17 ***maintenance and verification of checklists pursuant to RSA 654:36-b.***

18 3 Periodic Maintenance and Verification of Checklists; Reports of Death. Amend RSA 654:37 to
19 read as follows:

20 654:37 Reports of Death. Whenever there is filed in the office of the clerk an official notice of
21 the death of any person or persons of the age of 18 years or over or the clerk receives notice of a
22 death record of such person or persons under RSA 5-C:4, V ***with a full match***, the town or city clerk
23 shall notify the supervisors of the checklist of said deaths by submitting a notice of same to the
24 supervisors at their next regular meeting. ***For reports under RSA 5-C:4, V with a possible***
25 ***match, the city or town clerk shall look for an official notice of death and if available shall***
26 ***proceed as described in this section. If there is no official verification, the city or town***
27 ***clerk shall follow the procedures in RSA 654:37-a.*** Upon receipt of such notice, the supervisors
28 shall examine the checklist; and, if the name of said deceased person appears thereon, it shall be
29 removed. The notice shall be retained in accordance with RSA 33-A:3-a. Any supervisor who shall
30 neglect or refuse to erase the name of such deceased voter from the checklist after receiving such
31 notice from the town or city clerk shall be guilty of a violation.

HB 285 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 4 Centralized Voter Registration Database; Address Maintenance. Amend RSA 654:45, I to read
2 as follows:

3 I.(a) The secretary of state is authorized to plan, develop, equip, establish, site, and
4 maintain a statewide centralized voter registration database and communications system,
5 hereinafter referred to as the voter database, connecting users throughout the state. The voter
6 database shall include the current information on the voter registration forms, the accepted absentee
7 ballot applications, the voter checklists, and voter actions as recorded on the marked checklist
8 maintained by each city, ward, and town in the state. ***The database shall maintain addresses in***
9 ***accordance with United States Postal Service standardized addresses as described in the***
10 ***current USPS Publication 28.***

11 (b) ***The secretary of state shall provide for verification that voters sharing a***
12 ***place and date of birth, along with a substantially similar name to include nicknames or***
13 ***likely maiden/married name changes, are unique voters. Should any voter appear to be a***
14 ***duplicate registration, information shall be forwarded to the clerk of the city or town***
15 ***where registered for investigation. Such clerks shall notify the secretary of state of the***
16 ***result of such investigation, and should the investigation show that a single individual***
17 ***voted more than once in any election such information shall be forwarded to the attorney***
18 ***general for further investigation or prosecution.***

19 5 New Subparagraph; Centralized Voter Registration Database; Address Verification. Amend
20 RSA 654:45, IV by inserting after subparagraph (c) the following new subparagraph:

21 (d) Beginning July 1, 2022, the secretary of state shall annually cause voter records to
22 be checked with the United States Postal Service for changes of address. All records identified as
23 moving shall be provided to the city or town clerk for verification pursuant to RSA 654:39, III.

24 6 New Paragraph; Inventory of Property Transfers. Amend RSA 74:18 by inserting after
25 paragraph V the following new paragraph:

26 VI. Municipalities receiving inventories pursuant to this section shall forward the buyer's
27 and seller's names and post transaction addresses to the supervisor of the checklist in such
28 municipalities to facilitate periodic maintenance of the voter checklist.

29 7 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.