CHAPTER 2018-32

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 85

An act relating to voter registration list maintenance; amending s. 98.075, F.S.; authorizing the Department of State to become a member of a nongovernmental entity to verify voter registration information; establishing requirements for such membership; requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to provide specified information to the Department of State; establishing reporting requirements; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 98.075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

98.075 Registration records maintenance activities; ineligibility determinations.—

(2) DUPLICATE REGISTRATION.—

- (a) The department shall identify those voters who are registered more than once or those applicants whose registration applications within the state would result in duplicate registrations. The most recent application shall be deemed an update to the voter registration record.
- (b)1. The department may become a member of a nongovernmental entity whose sole purpose is to share and exchange information in order to verify voter registration information. The membership of the nongovernmental entity must be composed solely of election officials of state governments, except that such membership may also include election officials of the District of Columbia. If the department intends to become a member of such a nongovernmental entity, the agreement to join the entity must require that the Secretary of State, or his or her designee, serve as a full member with voting rights on the nongovernmental entity's board of directors within 12 months after joining the entity.
- 2. The department may share confidential and exempt information after becoming a member of a nongovernmental entity as provided in subparagraph 1. if:
- a. Each member of the nongovernmental entity agrees to maintain the confidentiality of such information as required by the laws of the jurisdiction providing the information; or
- b. The bylaws of the nongovernmental entity require member jurisdictions and the entity to maintain the confidentiality of information as required by the laws of the jurisdiction providing the information.

- 3. The department may only become a member of a nongovernmental entity as provided in subparagraph 1. if the entity is controlled and operated by the participating jurisdictions. The entity may not be operated or controlled by the Federal Government or any other entity acting on behalf of the Federal Government. The department must be able to withdraw at any time from any such membership entered into.
- 4. If the department becomes a member of a nongovernmental entity as provided in subparagraph 1., the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must, pursuant to a written agreement with the department, provide driver license or identification card information to the department for the purpose of sharing and exchanging voter registration information with the nongovernmental entity.
- 5. If the department becomes a member of a nongovernmental entity as provided in subparagraph 1., the department must submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1 of each year. The report must describe the terms of the nongovernmental entity membership and provide information on the total number of voters removed from the voter registration system as a result of the membership and the reasons for their removal.

Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 19, 2018.