

2019 -- H 5925

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- SECRETARY OF STATE

Introduced By: Representatives Speakman, Cassar, Barros, Donovan, and McEntee

Date Introduced: March 28, 2019

Referred To: House Judiciary

(Secretary of State)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-6-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-6 entitled "Secretary of
2 State" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-6-5. ~~Registration lists available to political parties and candidates.~~ Registration**
4 **lists available.**

5 (a) Upon application in writing, the secretary of state shall, upon request, furnish prepaid
6 at a reasonable price to be established annually by the secretary and at a reasonable time, ~~to the~~
7 ~~state chairperson of each political party and to each person proposing to be a duly qualified~~
8 ~~candidate for state or congressional office and to no one else except as provided in this chapter,~~
9 lists of registered voters as they appear in the central voter registry of each city or town or of each
10 senatorial or representative district, or of each congressional district except as such lists are
11 hereinafter specifically modified.

12 (b) ~~These lists, so furnished, shall be used by the chairpersons for political purposes, or~~
13 ~~by the candidates only in the furtherance of candidacy for political office in the ensuing primary~~
14 ~~and/or general election and for no other purpose.~~ The information available for each registrant
15 shall consist ~~only~~ of the name, designation of party affiliation, unique voter identifier, street
16 address, city or town, birth year, congressional district, senatorial district, representative district,
17 ward, and/or precinct ~~and nothing else.~~

18 (c) The price for these lists shall include update subscriptions as available to the date of
19 the election for which the lists have been requested. These updates shall reflect changes to the

1 registry records, including all new and deleted voters as received by the secretary of state.

2 (d) The secretary of state shall make the list of registered voters available for public view
3 in an accessible location during regular business hours.

4 SECTION 2. Sections 17-6-6 and 17-6-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-6 entitled
5 "Secretary of State" are hereby repealed.

6 ~~**17-6-6. Oath required as to use of lists.**~~

7 ~~Every person receiving the registry lists shall take and subscribe to the following oath:~~

8 ~~"I understand that the lists requested by me are the property of the state of Rhode Island~~
9 ~~and (I affirm that I am the state chairperson of the _____ party); (I proposed to be a duly~~
10 ~~qualified candidate in the next following primary and/or election); and that I am a person~~
11 ~~authorized by § 17-6-5 to receive a copy of the registry lists described; and I further affirm that~~
12 ~~the lists will be used only for the purposes prescribed and for no other use and that I will not~~
13 ~~permit the use of or copying of the lists by unauthorized persons.~~

14 _____

15 ~~Signature of purchaser~~

16 ~~Subscribed and sworn to before me at _____, this _____ day of _____,~~
17 ~~20_____.~~

18 _____

19 ~~Notary public"~~

20 ~~**17-6-7. Penalty for violating §§ 17-6-5 and 17-6-6.**~~

21 ~~Every person who violates the provisions of §§ 17-6-5 and 17-6-6 shall be guilty of a~~
22 ~~misdemeanor.~~

23 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- SECRETARY OF STATE

1 This act would provide that lists of registered voters be made available to the general
2 public by the secretary of state, and would repeal the requirement that the request be made under
3 oath and the misdemeanor penalty for violation of the sections relative to lists of registered
4 voters.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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