

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2265
Version: First engrossment

DATE: March 4, 2014

Authors: Laine

Subject: Elections data sharing

Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

This bill authorizes sharing of certain driver's license and identification card data with the secretary of state, and establishes data handling standards, if the secretary of state enters into an election and voter registration data sharing agreement with a group of states.

Eight states and the District of Columbia currently participate in a data sharing agreement called the "Electronic Registration Information Center" (ERIC). ERIC is a nonprofit organization, formed by the participating states with the assistance of the Pew Charitable Trusts, designed to improve the accuracy of participating states' voter registration data by, among other things, sharing driver's license data to identify voters who have moved, died, or who have duplicate registrations. The system also helps identify voters who are eligible but not registered to vote.

Minnesota is not currently a member of the ERIC system; by authorizing data sharing, this bill would implicitly allow for Minnesota to become a participating member if the secretary of state so chooses.

Section

- 1 Disclosure of personal information.** Requires the commissioner of public safety to disclose personal information to the secretary of state, for purposes of increasing voter registration and maintaining voter registration records.

The term "personal information" is a reference to a defined term in federal law, related to the use of driver's license and motor vehicle registration data. "Personal information" as defined in the federal law, includes identifying data such as an individual's name, address

Section

(without zip code), social security number, driver's license number, telephone number, photograph, and certain medical and disability information.

- 2** **Use of change of address system.** Permits the secretary of state to periodically obtain lists of individuals with driver's licenses or state identification cards, to identify those who may have applied for a replacement card with a different address, or who may have moved out of state.

If it appears a voter has moved to a new address within the state, but the secretary of state is unable to determine the correct precinct, the secretary may forward the information to the appropriate county auditor for individual review.

New paragraph (d) provides that, if the secretary of state enters into a data sharing agreement with a group of states, the secretary must first determine whether the data security protocols are sufficient to safeguard the information to be shared.

The secretary of state is permitted to share data, including private data on individuals, as part of such an agreement.

If the secretary enters into a data sharing agreement, the secretary of state and county auditors must process the data consistent with the requirements of this section. If data are received from another state, the secretary must maintain it with the same data classification as it had in the state that provided it.

- 3** **Appropriation.** Appropriates money to the secretary of state for purposes of carrying out the duties required by this bill. A portion of the appropriation would be added to the secretary of state's base budget.