

Committee on Ethics and Elections

CS/HB 85 — Voter Registration List Maintenance

by Public Integrity and Ethics Committee and Rep. Spano and others (CS/SB 276 by Appropriations Committee and Senators Hutson and Baxley)

The bill authorizes the Department of State (DOS) to join a nongovernmental entity for the purpose of verifying voter registration information. The bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to provide driver license or identification information to the DOS for the purpose of sharing and exchanging voter registration information with the nongovernmental entity. The bill allows the DOS to share confidential and exempt information pursuant to participation in a nongovernmental entity as long as there is agreement or a requirement to keep the information confidential.

The bill allows Florida to join a nongovernmental entity, designed to help states improve the accuracy of their voter rolls through data match identification of problematic registrations and to increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens. The bill requires the Secretary of State, or his or her designee, be on the board of directors of any entity the DOS joins.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect January 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 113-0