

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Ethics and Elections

[2019h00281.hms]

BILL: CS/HB 281, Engrossed 1 (SB 342)

INTRODUCER: State Affairs Committee and Representative Stevenson (Senator Lee)

SUBJECT: Public Records/Voters and Voter Registration

DATE: May 1, 2019

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 425013 to Senate Amendment 1 – 113608 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – Restores language removed by Senate Amendment 1 (113608) and adds organizations that meet the qualifications of s. 501(c)(3) or s. 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code to the list of entities that may obtain the telephone number and e-mail address of a voter registration applicant or voter for political purposes, voter education, or voter outreach.

The amendment makes, with exceptions, the telephone number and e-mail address of a voter registration applicant or voter, held by an agency and obtained for the purpose of voter registration, confidential and exempt from public records requirements and to be used only for purposes of voter registration. The exceptions are that the telephone number and email address must be made available to or reproduced only for:

- The voter registration applicant or voter;
- An official elected to public office;
- A canvassing board;
- An election official; or the following entities, for political purposes, voter education, or voter outreach:
 - An organization that meets the qualifications of s. 501(c)(3) or s. 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code;
 - A political party or official of a political party;
 - A candidate; or
 - A registered political committee.

The amendment also makes the telephone and email address exemption subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and repeals it on October 24, 2024, unless saved from repeal and reenacted before then.

The amendment also adds a statement of public necessity for the public records exemption for the telephone number and e-mail address of a voter registration applicant or voter.