



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
House of Representatives  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301-4888**

**SHAWN N. JASPER  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

August 16, 2017

William M. Gardner  
Secretary of State  
State of New Hampshire

Commissioner John Barthelmes  
Department of Safety  
State of New Hampshire

Dear Secretary Gardner and Commissioner Barthelmes:

Please provide the General Court with any available statistical information on the findings of your efforts to insure the accuracy and validity of New Hampshire's voter checklists through matching records of registered voters with the records of the Department of Safety. RSA 654:45, IV (b) authorized, and it is my understanding the Departments of State and Safety have initiated, a system for matching records for the purpose of "verifying the accuracy of the information contained in the voter database." This statute provides that "The commissioner of safety may authorize the release of information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to the extent that the information is necessary to department of state and department of safety cooperation in a joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records and to the extent that the information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies."

Statistical information on your current findings as a result of this work will assist the Legislature in assessing the current election laws and any bills proposing to change those laws in the upcoming session. I understand that these efforts to match records are required by the federal Help America Vote Act as part of a requirement that states act to keep voter checklists accurate and identify those who fraudulently register to vote. Is this system of verification effective? At any given election, what percentage of newly-registered voters have a record with discrepancies between their voting and motor vehicle/driver's license records? Does the matching process generate cases that require additional follow-up? Concerns have been raised with whether the current laws governing voter registration, vehicle registration, and driver licensing are effective at addressing an increasingly mobile population. As people

(2)

move into New Hampshire, out of New Hampshire, and between different towns and cities in New Hampshire, how effective are our laws at insuring voter registration, vehicle registration, and driver licensing is kept current? Do individuals who register a vehicle or obtain a driver's license also register to vote? Do those who register to vote in New Hampshire also obtain a driver's license or register a vehicle in New Hampshire? If additional education or enforcement regarding these rights and obligations were authorized, are there particular regions of the state or demographic groups where such efforts would be most beneficial?

This request is only for statistical information; this request does not seek identification of or information on any particular individuals.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Shawn N. Jasper  
Speaker of the House

cc: Senate President Charles W. Morse  
Sen. Regina Birdsell, Chair, Senate Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee  
Rep. Barbara Griffin, Chair, House Election Law Committee