
SENATE BILL 5892

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senators Riccelli, Valdez, Bateman, Frame, Hasegawa, Lias, Nobles, Pedersen, Slatter, and C. Wilson; by request of Secretary of State

Prefiled 12/16/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting the voter registration database;
2 amending RCW 42.56.425 and 29A.84.150; prescribing penalties; and
3 declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.56.425 and 2023 c 404 s 4 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The following information related to election security is
8 exempt from disclosure under this chapter:

9 (a) The continuity of operations plan for election operations and
10 any security audits, security risk assessments, or security test
11 results, relating to physical security or cybersecurity of election
12 operations or infrastructure. These records are exempt from
13 disclosure in their entirety;

14 (b) Those portions of records, manuals, or documentation
15 containing technical details and information regarding election
16 infrastructure, which include the systems, software, and networks
17 that support the election process, the public disclosure of which may
18 increase risk to the integrity of election operations or
19 infrastructure;

20 (c) Voter signatures on ballot return envelopes, ballot
21 declarations, and signature correction forms, including the original

1 documents, copies, and electronic images; and a voter's phone number
2 and email address contained on ballot return envelopes, ballot
3 declarations, or signature correction forms. The secretary of state,
4 by rule, may authorize in-person inspection of unredacted ballot
5 return envelopes, ballot declarations, and signature correction forms
6 in accordance with RCW 29A.04.260;

7 (d) Records regarding the infrastructure of a private entity
8 submitted to elections officials are exempt from disclosure for a
9 period of 25 years after the creation of the record when accompanied
10 by an express statement that the record contains information about
11 the private entity's infrastructure and public disclosure may
12 increase risk to the integrity of election operations or
13 infrastructure; and

14 (e) Voted ballots, voted ballot images, copies of voted ballots,
15 photographs of voted ballots, facsimile images of voted ballots, or
16 cast vote records of voted ballots, starting at the time of ballot
17 return from the voter, during storage per RCW 29A.60.110, and through
18 destruction following any retention period or litigation.

19 (2) The exemptions specified in subsection (1) of this section do
20 not include information or records pertaining to security breaches,
21 except as prohibited from disclosure under RCW 29A.12.200.

22 (3) The exemptions specified in subsection (1) of this section do
23 not prohibit an audit authorized or required under Title 29A RCW from
24 being conducted.

25 (4) Requests for records from or any existing reports generated
26 by the statewide voter registration database established under RCW
27 29A.08.105 must be submitted to and fulfilled by the secretary of
28 state. If a county elections office receives a request for records
29 from or any existing reports generated by the statewide voter
30 registration database established under RCW 29A.08.105, the county
31 elections office ~~((is))~~ shall not ~~((required to))~~ produce any records
32 in response to the request, but shall, by the deadline set forth in
33 RCW 42.56.520, direct the requestor to submit their request to the
34 secretary of state. A knowing violation of this subsection is a
35 violation of RCW 29A.84.150.

36 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.84.150 and 2004 c 267 s 138 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

38 (1) Any state or local election officer, or a designee, who has
39 access to any county or statewide voter registration database who

1 knowingly uses, discloses, or alters information in the database
2 inconsistent with the performance of his or her duties is guilty of a
3 class C felony, punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

4 (2) The Washington driver's license number, Washington
5 identification card number, social security number, and full
6 birthdate, shown on an affidavit of voter registration or included in
7 a voter registration file are confidential and shall not be disclosed
8 to any person except to state or local election officers and election
9 officials unless authorized by the office of the secretary of state.
10 Any state officer or election officer, or designee, who knowingly
11 violates this subsection is guilty of a class C felony punishable
12 under RCW 9A.20.021.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
15 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
16 effect immediately.

--- END ---