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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Elections and Constitutional Law
(AC-ECL)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Griffiths, Terri

From: Kathy Nickolaus [knickolaus@waukeshacounty.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2007 1:19 PM
To: Rep.Albers; Rep.Gundrum; Rep.Kessler; Rep.Kramer; Rep.Molepske; Rep.Montgomery; Rep.OttJ; Rep.WilliamsA
Cc: Scott Fibert; Roxann Halverson; Wanda Hinrichs; Cindy M. Phillippi; Pat Somppi; DeeAnn Cook; Darlene Marcelle; Beth Hauser; Kathy Bernier; Jensen Christina; Christina Jenson; Sue Moll; Bob Ohlsen; Karen Gibson; Jill Lau; Marilyn Hoyt; Janet Loomis; Jerri Meyer; Ann Mihalko; Marge Bostelmann; Kyle Deno; Barbara Frank; Kathleen Kobylski; Edna Highland; Marion Naegle; Kathy Jacob; Bob Kunkel; Jamie Aulik; Jim Thalacker; Ruth Wapoose; Susan Matson; Judy Ferris; Bob Brusio; Nancy Christensen; Julianne Winkelhorst; Marcia R. Bauer; Jamie Feuerhelm; Cathy Albrecht; Shirley Simonis; Jean Gottwald; Victor V. Vlasak; Kay O'Connell; Cindy Campbell; Beverly Mielke; Rosemary Bohm; Julie Glancey; Bruce Strama; David Alleman; Kim Bushey; Lynn Hoepfner; Mary Robbins; JOHN BENZ; Sue Ertmer; Cindy Meyers; Janet Geisler; Susan Sandvick; Joyce Buechel; Mike Doyle; Greg Klusendorf; Mike Saari; Linda Teske; Linda Bawden; Nan Kottke; Kathy Brandt; Lisa Meiner; Mark Ryan; Chris Carl; Joan Rennert; Denise Nelson; Kim Mayberry; Paul Syverson; Ron Hoff; Kathy Nickolaus
Subject: Proposed amendment to AB-295

Dear member of the Election and Constitutional Law committee,

I am writing with a request for an amendment to be added to AB-295.

The law reads that "no person other than an employee of the board, a municipal clerk, a deputy clerk, an executive director of a city board of election commissioners, or a deputy designated by the executive director may view the date of birth, operator's license number, or social security account number" from the voter registration file.

Many County Clerks and their designated staff are responsible for entering and maintaining the voter registration information in SVRS. This process includes entering the information mentioned above. I request an amendment inserting on line 5 "County Clerks and their deputy designated by the County Clerk, " following the verbiage "clerk, a deputy clerk," be added to AB-295.

AB-295 link
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/AB295hst.html>

Thank you for the consideration, if you have any questions on this amendment or any other election related issue feel free to contact me.

Kathy Nickolaus, MPA, CERA
Waukesha County Clerk
1320 Pewaukee Road #120
Waukesha, WI 53188
Phone: (262) 548-7010
Fax: (262) 548-7722





210 N. Bassett St., Suite 215 • Madison, WI 53705 • 608.255-4260 • www.wisdc.org

Testimony on Assembly Bill 295 (public access to voter registration identification)

Assembly Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law

Thursday, May 31, 2007

Thank you for holding this hearing today. We testify on Assembly Bill 295 for information only.

The official voter registration list is a public record open for public inspection subject only to specified statutory exceptions outlined in Wis. Stats. 6.36(1)(b). Those exceptions as currently written include the unique voter registration identification numbers for each registered voter. The law has been in effect for more than three years, and as recently as July 2006 the Elections Board was advising local elections officials of the confidentiality requirements of the law without expressing any concern about the way the law was written. It was not until the Elections Board discovered it could not find a way to comply with the voter privacy law and remove the confidential voter registration numbers without making its computerized system inoperative that concerns were raised about supposed flaws in the law. The subsequent drafting of this legislation is a means to obscure the larger and more important issue – the incompetence of the global outsourcing firm chosen by the Elections Board to create the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS).

The Board staff admitted back in 2006 that when utilizing the SVRS developed by Accenture it is always necessary to input the voter registration numbers to properly operate the software system and to complete such tasks as maintaining voter histories and complying with other requirements mandated by Wisconsin law and the HAVA. There are no methods for removing the numbers from the system that would keep the system operative when performing these necessary functions.

Accenture developed a standardized software system which it intended to use in multiple states to create each state's voter file. Contrary to contract agreements, they failed to customize the software system taking into account the specifics of Wisconsin's elections laws and needs. A statutory change allows the Board to further avoid addressing Accenture's inadequacies. After spending millions of dollars, the state has received from Accenture a legally and practically unworkable voter file system. The Elections Board's preferred remedy to one aspect of this boondoggle is to change the law that Accenture has not figured out a way to comply with. AB 295 serves no useful purpose to voters. Its only purpose is to cover up for the fact that Accenture can't program its way out of a paper bag.



Assembly Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law

Testimony of Kevin J. Kennedy
Executive Director
Wisconsin State Elections Board
May 31, 2007

Chairman Albers and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before this committee and testify in favor of Assembly Bill 295.

Wisconsin Act 265 enacted April 15, 2004 created Section 6.36 (1) (b)1.a., which designated the "registration identification number" as confidential and only accessible to election officials. This was a drafting error.

The identification number that the Wisconsin State Elections Board uses in the Statewide Voter Registration System is a number assigned by the system to every voter record as it is entered into the system. This number may have been assigned during a mass conversion effort in 2005 and 2006, or on an individual basis as new voter applications are entered. This number has no meaning to anyone except the election official who is managing the Statewide Voter Registration System data for that particular county or municipality.

This number is printed on the poll books in numeric and bar code form. After the election, the election worker scans this number for every voter who voted in the election. This enables us to maintain a voter history and is necessary to quickly and accurately update the database.

The confidential designation of this number is causing election officials to take additional steps which take up their valuable time. At the polling place, poll workers must cover the right hand column of the poll book so the public may not see this number. Compliance will be difficult next year as the poll workers deal with the high turnout of a presidential election. If the municipal clerk is selling a copy of the poll book to the customer, she needs to "mask" the voter identification number on each page before copying.

Thank you for considering this request. Your local election officials will appreciate your action today.

*8 Drafts
to WMS
into
compliance
w/HAVA*

*100 reason to
shield #*

*Municipal Clerk
Poll workers*

*Registered in 2 places
Voter history
Better manage
Absentee voting*

Assembly Committee on Elections and Constitutional Law

Testimony of Kevin J. Kennedy
Executive Director
Wisconsin State Elections Board
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*This is an item
overlooked in drafting of
WI Act 265. 2003
currently the clerk
has to cover the # if
there is a public
member present
the list of id#
appears on the
far right
column.*

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