

HB 1531 - AS INTRODUCED

2020 SESSION

20-2557

11/03

HOUSE BILL ***1531***

AN ACT relative to the release of voting information in a presidential election.

SPONSORS: Rep. Prout, Hills. 37; Rep. Edwards, Rock. 4; Rep. Costable, Rock. 3; Rep. Verville, Rock. 2; Rep. A. Lekas, Hills. 37; Rep. T. Lekas, Hills. 37; Rep. Torosian, Rock. 14

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits officers, employees, and contractors of the state of New Hampshire and its political subdivisions from releasing information relating to the number of votes cast in an election, subject to certain exceptions. The provisions of the bill are suspended until states that cumulatively possess a majority of the electoral votes have enacted the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact in substantially the same form and the enactments by such states have taken effect in each state.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty

AN ACT relative to the release of voting information in a presidential election.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Canvass and Declaration: State General Election; Release of Information
2 Relative to the Number of Votes Cast. Amend RSA 659 by inserting after section 84 the following
3 new section:

4 659:84-a Release of Information Relative to the Number of Votes Cast in a State General
5 Election.

6 I. Unless a recount has been requested pursuant to RSA 669, no officer, employee, or
7 contractor of the state of New Hampshire or its political subdivisions shall publicly release the
8 number of votes cast in the general election for president of the United States until after the time set
9 by law for the meeting and voting of presidential electors has passed in all states.

10 II. The secretary of state may release, as soon as the information becomes available, the
11 percentage of statewide votes cast for each presidential candidate to the nearest tenth of a
12 percentage point, a list of presidential candidates in order of increasing or decreasing percentage
13 totals, and the winner of the election. The secretary of state may also release partial results prior to
14 receiving results from all voting districts, and in such case may release the percentage of the state's
15 registered voters represented by those voting districts.

16 2 Contingency. Section 1 of this act is hereby suspended until such time that states
17 cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes have enacted the National Popular Vote
18 Interstate Compact in substantially the same form and the enactments by such states have taken
19 effect in each such state.

20 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.