

Legislative Analysis



ACCESS TO QUALIFIED VOTER FILE

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4837 as enrolled
Sponsor: Rep. Sarah L. Lightner
House Committee: Elections and Ethics
Senate Committee: Elections
Complete to 1-19-22

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

(Vetoed by the Governor 10-3-21)

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4837 would amend the Michigan Election Law to provide that only the following individuals can access the qualified voter file (QVF):

- The secretary of state (SOS) and the director and staff of the Bureau of Elections (BOE).
- A county, city, or township clerk.
- An election official to whom the BOE has issued login credentials to access the QVF.
- An employee of the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), or of a vendor, who performs system maintenance and security functions on the QVF.

The bill also would remove “designated voter registration agency” from the entities allowed to enter names of individuals into the QVF. (Designated voter registration agencies include recruitment offices of the armed forces of the United States and state departments, agencies, and offices that have been designated by the governor to perform voter registration activities in Michigan.)

Finally, the bill would stipulate that nothing in the list of individuals allowed access to the QVF would affect an individual’s ability to receive records under the provision of the act that allows for public inspection of voter registration–related records held by the SOS or applicable clerk.

MCL 168.509o and 168.509r

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4837 would have no fiscal impact on the state or on local units of government.

Vetoed 10-3-21:

In her veto message,¹ Governor Whitmer expressed her belief that the bill was one of several election-related bills that were intended to spread disinformation about the 2020 election, including the bill’s implication that outside parties had access to the QVF.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

¹ https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIEOG/2021/10/04/file_attachments/1955882/Veto%20Letter%20-%20HB%204528,%204837,%204838,%204492.pdf