

REPORT: H.B. 4838

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Summary

Originally introduced by Michigan Republican House Representative Phil Green, the bill - part of a three-bill package - seeks to reduce potential hacking that could manipulate vote totals. Green says this will help “restore public confidence in the state’s election process.”

The Michigan House on August 17th passed House Bill (H.B.) 4838, which now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

H.B. 4838 prohibits election precincts or absent voter counting boards from connecting electronic poll books and voting systems to the Internet. This goes into effect from the moment that the polls are opened on election day until the results have been tabulated for the precinct and transmitted to the appropriate clerk.

Analysis

Section 1: Electronic Poll Books

This section states the following:

1. Each city or township shall use software developed by the Bureau of Elections to process voters and generator reports on election day.
2. Each city or township clerk shall download the poll book software after 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election, except as otherwise provided in Subsection 3 of MCL 168.668b.
3. Provides exceptions for cities or townships with more than 50 precincts on when they may begin downloading the poll book software.
4. Prohibits election precincts or absent voter counter boards from connecting electronic poll books to the internet, after the polls are opened on election day, and until the results have been tabulated for the precinct and transmitted to the appropriate clerk.

Section 2: Electronic Voting Systems

This section states the following:

1. Outlines requirements for electronic voting systems acquired under §794¹ and §799a².
2. Prohibits election precincts or absent voter counter boards from connecting electronic voting systems to the internet, after the polls are opened on election day, and until the results have been tabulated for the precinct and transmitted to the appropriate clerk.

¹ [MI Comp L § 168.794 \(2020\)](#)

² [MI Comp L § 168.799a \(2019\)](#)

Conclusion

There are concerns that H.B. 4838 will create confusion among voters³ and that this bill serves no purpose because electronic poll books and voting systems purportedly do not connect to the Internet.⁴ Evidence documented by NBC News, however, shows voting systems connected to the Internet in many states, including Michigan,⁵ which indicates that such concerns indeed have merit and a factual basis. This bill therefore would address concerns of voters wishing to maintain integrity of their elections, and, even if redundant, makes in no uncertain terms clear that the machines may not connect to the Internet during the election.

How to Help

Only when more people get involved, will meaningful, impactful change occur. This means less talking and more doing. That's how Look Ahead America will positively impact election reform.

Support Look Ahead America by signing up to volunteer or by making a financial contribution at <https://www.lookaheadamerica.org>

You can also join our Discord community server at <https://discord.gg/lookaheadamerica>

³ Robinson, S. J. (2021, July 2). Michigan House OKs election security bills some call redundant. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/381JeKh>.

⁴ Michigan Senate p. 20-21. (2021, June). Report on the November 2020 Election in Michigan. <https://bit.ly/2XMDFh2>

⁵ Monahan, K., McFadden, C., & Martinez, D. (2020b, February 8). "Online and vulnerable": Experts find nearly three dozen U.S. voting systems connected to internet. NBC News. <https://nbcnews.to/3y87xRx>