



January 24, 2024

**RE: HB 1177 Opposition**

Chair Marcia S. Price & the Committee on Privileges and Elections

Dear Committee on Privileges and Elections,

America needs to restore integrity in the election process; Virginia needs election laws that citizens can support and instill confidence in. We need nonpartisan laws that both sides can support. Unfortunately, the repeal of the Electronic Registration Information Center better known as E.R.I.C. is flawed with problems.

Large states like Florida, North Carolina, Texas, and Ohio have pulled out, while states like California and New York have never been part of the program. Why would Virginia join a program which has not met the needs of these states?

The Voter Reference Foundation, a 501(c)(4), is dedicated to ensuring transparent, accurate and fair elections in the United States of America. We have a national scorecard for every state in the nation. Virginia's transparency score is only 65, while North Carolina has a score of 97, and West Virginia has a score of 83. Two other partisan states have similar scores: New York 84 and Ohio 92.

Virginia's previous departure from ERIC was necessary to restore the public's trust. There has been no real reform nor justification to go back. The legislature's previous actions were bipartisan and correct. We urge the committee to oppose HB 1177 and support continued transparency.

Respectively,

Gina Swoboda  
Executive Director  
The Voter Reference Foundation



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