



## HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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### **Motor Voter Legislation: House Republicans Ask, ‘What Could Go Wrong?’** *Oregon State Government, Including Secretary of State’s Office, Has A Troublesome History Of Personal Data Breaches And IT Failures*

**Salem, OR** – Oregon House Republicans raised numerous concerns during today’s work session on HB 2177, which would give the Oregon Secretary of State the authority to automatically register voters using driver license data provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles. In addition to issues of voter privacy and cost to county clerks, House Republicans pointed to the large-scale IT effort that would be required to implement the legislation as well as the various data breaches at state agencies that have compromised the personal information of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians.

“We can argue about the content of the bill, but there is no denying that state government in Oregon has repeatedly dropped the ball on IT projects and data collection efforts,” said House Republican Leader Mike McLane, who serves as a member of the House Rules Committee. “Oregon’s inability to successfully implement various information technology projects or prevent personal data breaches is troubling, particularly with regards to legislation that involves minors. As Representative Vic Gilliam noted, Oregon needs to first address the problems plaguing the state’s IT systems and personal databases.”

At least three major state agency data breaches have occurred within the past year, including two at the Secretary of State’s Office. Social security numbers, addresses and employment histories were among the information compromised during these breaches.

Four amendments to protect Oregonians’ personal choices and privacy were introduced by House Republicans during the work session but were voted down along party lines. HB 2177 was then referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

#### **Media Throwback: Oregon’s Troublesome History With IT Projects And Data Breaches**

- “On Feb. 5 Secretary of State Kate Brown announced the website had possibly been hacked and that candidates’ bank account information was among the data accessed.” ([KATU](#), 2/20/14)
- “Hackers possibly from China or North Korea broke into the Oregon Secretary of State’s website a week before state officials realized it, newly obtained documents and information show...” ([The Oregonian](#), 6/24/2014)
- “Frustrations are mounting more than a week after a breach of the Oregon secretary of state’s website caused elections and business databases to go offline...The breach also raises

questions about the security of the agency's other databases, including the voters database, which contains personal information that isn't publicly available..." ([The Oregonian](#), 2/13/2014)

- "The February breach of the Oregon Secretary of State's website cost taxpayers about \$176,662, including about \$4,500 for meals and lodging..." ([The Oregonian](#), 4/30/2014)
- "The attack...raised serious questions about the safety of personal information in the hands of state government. Oregon, like other states, is increasingly vulnerable to data breaches." ([Oregon Business Report](#), 1/19/2015)
- "Hackers accessed confidential employments records for more than 850,000 people...the hacked information contains Social Security numbers, addresses, birth dates and other information usually found on job applications...this is the second time a state website full of personal information has been hacked this year." ([Statesman Journal](#), 10/14/2014)
- "...for two weeks, the [Oregon Employment Department] waited to directly notify hundreds of thousands of people their personal information was compromised...the breach goes back to at least 2008..." ([KATU](#), 10/22/2014)
- "Two Oregon Secretary of State databases and the state's Employment Department website were hacked in the last year...an attack on the voter registry system could be crippling." ([Bend Bulletin](#), 12/30/2014)
- "...Rosenblum said state law has not kept pace as companies collect an increasing quantity and variety of consumer data." ([Blue Mountain Eagle](#), 12/10/2014)
- "Watching some difficulties that Oregon has had, in this area and Cover Oregon, there's a temptation to think we're better at technology than we actually are." ([The Oregonian](#), 2/22/2014)
- "...Cover Oregon joins a list of high-tech undertakings the state oversold...many of the narratives are familiar: missed deadlines and millions of dollars spent on a system that struggled to function." ([Bend Bulletin](#), 1/26/2014)

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