

HB 2125 -- FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SPONSOR: Banderman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 10 to 4 with 1 member voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 3.

Current law requires the Secretary of State and the Director of the Department of Revenue to enter into an agreement to match information in the voter registration database with information in the motor vehicle system. This bill requires the agreement to include information pertaining to the citizenship status of individuals in the department's database.

This bill reinstates the Secretary of State's ability to conduct investigations and exercise subpoena power with respect to suspected election offenses, which expired on August 28, 2025.

Several provisions of current law allow the Secretary of State to collect a \$5 fee for filings related to business organizations, commercial transactions, and trademarks. This bill extends expiration dates on these provisions to December 31, 2031.

This bill is similar to HB 770 (2025).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that extending the expiration date of the technology trust fund fees is necessary for the proper functioning of the Secretary of State's office. The fees help fund the office's cybersecurity capabilities, as the Secretary of State has its own system independent of the Office of Administration. The reauthorization of subpoena power is necessary to allow the state's chief election authority to have the tools to properly investigate allegations of election crimes. There is already a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Revenue and the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State can receive this information upon request, but does not get it automatically.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Banderman; Responsive Government Action; Amanda Bell, Secretary of State; and Arnie C. Dienoff .

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.