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## **FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION**

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### **LEGISLATIVE ALERT**

**April 26, 2019**



## **UNWARRANTED EXEMPTION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION FALLS ON SENATE FLOOR FOR FAILURE TO RECEIVE 2/3 VOTE!!**

CS/HB 281 would create a public record exemption for the email addresses and telephone numbers of registered voters. There was an exception to the exemption allowing access by political parties, PACs, elected officials, and candidates for office. In other words, the deep-pockets would have access, but grassroots organizations and citizen activists would not. CS/HB 281 passed the House unanimously yesterday.

Can we spell U-N-F-A-I-R??????

The Senate companion, SB 342, created an exemption for information about 16 and 17 year-olds who preregister to vote. No big deal. Well, today the Senate tabled SB 342 and substituted CS/HB 281 and rolled the House bill for a final vote even though the two bills were *not* even *close* to identical.

And then?????

## **CS/HB 281 failed to get the required 2/3 vote!!!!!!**

The constitutional standard for the creation of open government exemptions was amended in 2002 to require that all new or expanded exemptions receive a 2/3 vote. The final vote on CS/HB 281 was 24/16!

By our count, 156 exemptions have passed since 2002 and this is only the *second time* since a proposed exemption failed to receive the 2/3 vote.

To see the Senate vote on CS/HB 281, click here: <http://bit.ly/2DAhayG>

We need to give a BIG shout out to **Senator Rob Bradley (R-Orange Park)** and **Senator Lori Berman (D-Boynton Beach)** who spoke against the exemption.

If you have questions about CS/HB 281, please contact Barbara Petersen at 800/337-3518 or [sunshine@floridafaf.org](mailto:sunshine@floridafaf.org).