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HOUSE BILL 1844

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State of Washington

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By Representatives Smith, Koster, L. Thomas, Talcott, Sump, D. Schmidt, Bush, Lambert, Wensman, Mielke, Thompson, Buck, Crouse, Mitchell, Chandler, Ballasiotes, Radcliff, Hankins, B. Thomas, Parlette, McMorris, Schoesler, Backlund and Mulliken

Read first time 02/11/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to voter registration; and amending RCW 29.07.005,  
2 29.07.070, 29.07.090, 29.07.140, and 29.08.070.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.07.005 and 1994 c 57 s 9 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 The definitions used in this section apply throughout this chapter  
7 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

8 (1) "Identification sufficient to identify the applicant" means a  
9 Washington state driver's license, identicard issued by the department  
10 of licensing under RCW 46.20.117, United States passport, or United  
11 States military identification.

12 (2) "Information required for voter registration" means the minimum  
13 information provided on a voter registration application that is  
14 required by the county auditor in order to place a voter registration  
15 applicant on the voter registration rolls. This information includes  
16 the applicant's: (a) Name((τ)); (b) complete residence address((τ));  
17 (c) date of birth((τ)); (d) place of birth and, if the place of birth  
18 was outside the United States, then either the applicant's  
19 naturalization number or the names and places of birth of both parents;

1 and (e) a signature attesting to the truth of the information provided  
2 on the application. All other information supplied is ancillary and  
3 not to be used as grounds for not registering an applicant to vote.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.07.070 and 1994 c 57 s 11 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Except as provided under RCW 29.07.260, an applicant for voter  
7 registration shall complete an application providing the following  
8 information concerning his or her qualifications as a voter in this  
9 state:

10 (1) The address of the last former registration of the applicant as  
11 a voter in the state;

12 (2) The applicant's full name;

13 (3) The applicant's date of birth;

14 (4) The applicant's place of birth and, if the place of birth is  
15 outside the United States, then either the applicant's naturalization  
16 number or the names and places of birth of both parents;

17 (5) The address of the applicant's residence for voting purposes;

18 ~~((5))~~ (6) The mailing address of the applicant if that address is  
19 not the same as the address in subsection ~~((4))~~ (5) of this section;

20 ~~((6))~~ (7) The sex of the applicant;

21 ~~((7))~~ (8) A declaration that the applicant is a citizen of the  
22 United States; and

23 ~~((8))~~ (9) Any other information that the secretary of state  
24 determines is necessary to establish the identity of the applicant and  
25 prevent duplicate or fraudulent voter registrations.

26 This information shall be recorded on a single registration form to  
27 be prescribed by the secretary of state.

28 If the applicant fails to provide the information required for  
29 voter registration, the auditor shall send the applicant a verification  
30 notice. The auditor shall not register the applicant until the  
31 required information is provided. If a verification notice is returned  
32 as undeliverable or the applicant fails to respond to the notice within  
33 forty-five days, the auditor shall not register the applicant to vote.

34 In addition, an applicant for voter registration shall show  
35 identification sufficient to identify the applicant. If the applicant  
36 fails to show identification sufficient to identify the applicant, the  
37 registrar shall not accept the application for registration.

1       The following warning shall appear in a conspicuous place on the  
2 voter registration form:

3       "If you knowingly provide false information on this voter  
4 registration form or knowingly make a false declaration about your  
5 qualifications for voter registration you will have committed a class  
6 C felony that is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, or by  
7 a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both imprisonment and fine."

8       **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.07.090 and 1994 c 57 s 13 are each amended to read  
9 as follows:

10       At the time of registering, a voter shall sign his or her name upon  
11 a signature card to be transmitted to the secretary of state. The  
12 voter shall also provide his or her first name followed by the last  
13 name or names and the name of the county in which he or she is  
14 registered and shall show identification sufficient to identify the  
15 applicant.

16       **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.07.140 and 1994 c 57 s 18 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18       (1) The secretary of state shall specify by rule the format of all  
19 voter registration applications and shall specify by rule how  
20 identification sufficient to identify the applicant is determined. The  
21 application form must include space for the registrar to acknowledge  
22 that the applicant has shown identification sufficient to identify the  
23 applicant. These applications shall be compatible with existing voter  
24 registration records. An applicant for voter registration shall be  
25 required to complete only one application and to provide the required  
26 information other than his or her signature no more than one time.  
27 These applications shall also contain information for the voter to  
28 transfer his or her registration.

29       Any application format specified by the secretary for use in  
30 registering to vote in state and local elections shall satisfy the  
31 requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-  
32 31) for registering to vote in federal elections.

33       (2) The secretary of state shall adopt by rule a uniform data  
34 format for transferring voter registration records on machine-readable  
35 media.

1 (3) All registration applications required under RCW 29.07.070 and  
2 29.07.260 shall be produced and furnished by the secretary of state to  
3 the county auditors and the department of licensing.

4 (4) The secretary of state shall produce and distribute any  
5 instructional material and other supplies needed to implement RCW  
6 29.07.260 through 29.07.300 and 46.20.155.

7 (5) Any notice or statement that must be provided under the  
8 National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-31) to prospective  
9 registrants concerning registering to vote in federal elections shall  
10 also be provided to prospective registrants concerning registering to  
11 vote under this title in state and local elections as well as federal  
12 elections.

13 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.08.070 and 1993 c 434 s 7 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 The secretary of state shall adopt an application form for  
16 registering by mail under RCW 29.07.140 and how the applicant shall  
17 show identification that is sufficient to identify the applicant. An  
18 applicant registering to vote by mail shall be required to complete  
19 only one form and to provide the required information, other than his  
20 or her signature, no more than once, and shall be required to show  
21 identification that is sufficient to identify the applicant. The form  
22 shall also contain instructions on its use, a notification of filing  
23 deadlines, a warning to the applicant of the penalty for knowingly  
24 supplying false information, and space for the county auditor to enter  
25 the voter's precinct identification, taxing district identification,  
26 and registration number. The secretary of state shall develop the form  
27 in consultation with the county auditors.

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