
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 2205

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Billig, Zeiger, Fitzgibbon, Hudgins, Hunt, Green, Sells, McCoy, Maxwell, Probst, Jenkins, Pettigrew, Darneille, Eddy, Upthegrove, Hope, Ormsby, Blake, Miloscia, Hansen, Goodman, Carlyle, Kagi, Van De Wege, Pedersen, Tharinger, Kenney, Orwall, Moeller, Wylie, Appleton, Ladenburg, Lytton, Reykdal, Stanford, Pollet, and Hasegawa

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1 AN ACT Relating to voter registration for sixteen and seventeen
2 year olds; amending RCW 29A.08.210, 29A.08.330, and 46.20.155; adding
3 a new section to chapter 29A.08 RCW; creating a new section; and
4 providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance of
7 fostering lifelong civic participation. Young voters remain
8 underrepresented in the United States electorate. Nationally, fifty-
9 nine percent of eligible eighteen to twenty-nine year olds are
10 registered to vote, compared to seventy-one percent in the general
11 population. Registration supports voter turnout among young adults:
12 Eighty-three percent of registered eighteen to twenty-nine year olds in
13 the United States voted in 2008. Studies show that young adults who
14 vote are likely to continue to do so throughout adulthood. The
15 legislature recognizes that these representational disparities in
16 registration rates and voting rates within the youth electorate will
17 improve by enacting election policies that engage all young citizens.
18 Therefore, the legislature declares that this act, allowing eligible

1 youth at least sixteen years of age to register to vote, is intended to
2 increase voter turnout in young adults.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) A person who is at least sixteen years of age and who meets all
6 requirements to vote except age may register to vote with the office of
7 the secretary of state.

8 (2) The voter's registration will be held from entry in the
9 statewide voter registration database until such time as the voter will
10 be eighteen years of age before the next election.

11 (3) A confirmation notice will be sent to the voter's address at
12 the time the voter's registration is entered into the statewide voter
13 registration database.

14 (4) The secretary of state is authorized to adopt rules to
15 implement this section. In promulgating such rules, the secretary of
16 state should endeavor to maintain an accurate record of the current
17 residential addresses of registrants.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.08.210 and 2009 c 369 s 16 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 An applicant for voter registration shall complete an application
21 providing the following information concerning his or her
22 qualifications as a voter in this state:

23 (1) The former address of the applicant if previously registered to
24 vote;

25 (2) The applicant's full name;

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

27 (4) The address of the applicant's residence for voting purposes;

28 (5) The mailing address of the applicant if that address is not the
29 same as the address in subsection (4) of this section;

30 (6) The sex of the applicant;

31 (7) The applicant's Washington state driver's license number,
32 Washington state identification card number, or the last four digits of
33 the applicant's social security number if he or she does not have a
34 Washington state driver's license or Washington state identification
35 card;

1 (8) A check box allowing the applicant to indicate that he or she
2 is a member of the armed forces, national guard, or reserves, or that
3 he or she is an overseas voter;

4 (9) ((A)) Two check boxes allowing the applicant to confirm (~~that~~
5 ~~he or she~~) one of the following:

6 (a) The applicant is at least eighteen years of age or will be
7 eighteen years of age by the next election;

8 (b) The applicant is at least sixteen years of age, meets all
9 requirements to vote except age, and understands that the registration
10 will be held until such time as the applicant is eligible to vote at
11 the next election;

12 (10) Clear and conspicuous language, designed to draw the
13 applicant's attention, stating that the applicant must be a United
14 States citizen in order to register to vote;

15 (11) A check box and declaration confirming that the applicant is
16 a citizen of the United States;

17 (12) The following warning:

18 "If you knowingly provide false information on this voter
19 registration form or knowingly make a false declaration about your
20 qualifications for voter registration you will have committed a class
21 C felony that is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a
22 fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both."

23 (13) The oath required by RCW 29A.08.230 and a space for the
24 applicant's signature; and

25 (14) Any other information that the secretary of state determines
26 is necessary to establish the identity of the applicant and prevent
27 duplicate or fraudulent voter registrations.

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

30 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.08.330 and 2009 c 369 s 20 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) The secretary of state shall prescribe the method of voter
33 registration for each designated agency. The agency shall use either
34 the state voter registration by mail form with a separate declination
35 form for the applicant to indicate that he or she declines to register
36 at this time, or the agency may use a separate form approved for use by
37 the secretary of state.

1 (2) The person providing service at the agency shall offer voter
2 registration services to every client whenever he or she applies for
3 service or assistance and with each renewal, recertification, or change
4 of address. The person providing service shall give the applicant the
5 same level of assistance with the voter registration application as is
6 offered to fill out the agency's forms and documents, including
7 information about age and citizenship requirements for voter
8 registration.

9 (3) The person providing service at the agency shall determine if
10 the prospective applicant wants to register to vote or transfer his or
11 her voter registration by asking the following question:

12 "Do you want to register to vote or transfer your voter
13 registration?"

14 If the applicant chooses to register or transfer a registration,
15 the service agent shall ask the following:

16 (a) "Are you a United States citizen?"

17 (b) "Are you (~~or will you be eighteen~~) at least sixteen years of
18 age (~~on or before the next election~~)?"

19 If the applicant answers in the affirmative to both questions, the
20 agent shall then provide the applicant with a voter registration form
21 and instructions and shall record that the applicant has requested to
22 register to vote or transfer a voter registration. If the applicant
23 answers in the negative to either question, the agent shall not provide
24 the applicant with a voter registration form.

25 (4) If an agency uses a computerized application process, it may,
26 in consultation with the secretary of state, develop methods to capture
27 simultaneously the information required for voter registration during
28 a person's computerized application process.

29 (5) Each designated agency shall transmit the applications to the
30 secretary of state or appropriate county auditor within three business
31 days.

32 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.20.155 and 2009 c 369 s 42 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 (1) Before issuing an original license or identicard or renewing a
35 license or identicard under this chapter, the licensing agent shall

1 determine if the applicant wants to register to vote or transfer his or
2 her voter registration by asking the following question:

3 "Do you want to register to vote or transfer your voter
4 registration?"

5 If the applicant chooses to register or transfer a registration,
6 the agent shall ask the following:

- 7 (1) "Are you a United States citizen?"
- 8 (2) "Are you (~~or will you be eighteen~~) at least sixteen years of
9 age (~~on or before the next election~~)?"

10 If the applicant answers in the affirmative to both questions, the
11 agent shall then submit the registration or transfer. If the applicant
12 answers in the negative to either question, the agent shall not submit
13 a voter registration application.

14 (2) The department shall establish a procedure that substantially
15 meets the requirements of subsection (1) of this section when
16 permitting an applicant to renew a license or identicard by mail or by
17 electronic commerce.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2013.

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