
**State Government, Elections &
Information Technology Committee**

HB 2433

Brief Description: Concerning automatic voter registration, including establishing the future voter program for certain persons sixteen and seventeen years of age.

Sponsors: Representatives Bergquist, Kilduff, Macri, Riccelli, Kagi, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Stambaugh, Goodman, Pollet, Ormsby, Valdez and Tarleton; by request of Secretary of State.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes 16 and 17 year olds to "sign up" to register to vote at the Department of Licensing (DOL), designated agencies, electronically, and by mail.
- Exempts voter sign-up records of people under 18 years of age from public disclosure requirements and inclusion on the jury source list.
- Requires voter registration services to be provided in certain classrooms on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.
- Authorizes the DOL to automatically sign a person up to register to vote, or to register a qualified person to vote, if that person is applying for or renewing an enhanced driver's license and the DOL confirms certain information.

Hearing Date: 1/16/18

Staff: Desiree Omlie (786-7105).

Background:

Voter Registration.

A person may vote if they are a United States (U.S.) citizen, lived at their address for at least 30 days prior to the election, be at least 18 years old, not under the Department of Corrections supervision for a felony conviction, and not disqualified to vote due to a court order. It is a class

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

C felony for a person to register to vote if the person knows that they do not meet the qualifications of a voter.

Upon registering to vote, the applicant must confirm that he or she is a U.S. citizen and is at least 18 years old or will be by the next election. Voters may register electronically, by mail, or in person at certain locations. To register electronically, a person must have a valid state driver's license or state identification card and agree to use their license or identification card signature for voter registration purposes.

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires state agencies to provide voter registration services to their customers. Through the Motor Voter Act, the Department of Licensing (DOL) is required to provide voter registration services. In addition to the DOL, the Governor, in consultation with the Secretary of State (Secretary), must designate state agencies to provide voter registration services. Additional agencies offering voter registration services are the: Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Department of Health (DOH), Health Care Authority (HCA), Health Benefits Exchange (HBE), and Department of Services for the Blind (DSB). In addition, each institution of higher education is required to place an active prompt on its course registration website, or similar, that will allow students to select a link that directs them to the Secretary's voter registration website. State agencies offering registration services must ask its customers if they want to register to vote or update voter registration information.

A challenge to a person's right to vote must be based on personal knowledge of certain information, including that a voter will not be 18 years old by the next election.

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.

On January 16, or the preceding Friday if January 16 falls on a non-school day, each public school observes Temperance and Good Citizenship Day. The Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent) must annually produce a program for teachers to use on Temperance and Good Citizenship Day.

Voter Registration Database, the Public Records Act, and Jury List.

Under the Public Records Act, each agency must make available for public inspection and copying all public records, unless the record falls under an exception. The Secretary must maintain a statewide voter registration database, and, for each county, the county auditor must maintain custody of the original voter registration records. Subject to certain restrictions, either the county auditor or the Secretary must make available for public inspection and copying the precinct lists and lists of registered voters. The only information in voter registration records available for inspection and copying include the: voter's name, address, political jurisdiction, gender, date of birth, voting record, date of registration, and registration number.

The Secretary must provide a copy of the master statewide voter registration file to the Consolidated Technology Services agency for the purpose of creating a jury source list.

Summary of Bill:

Voter Registration:

A person may sign up to register to vote in person at a designated agency, electronically, or by mail upon his or her sixteenth birthday. A person that signs up to register to vote is referred to as

a future voter. Although a future voter provides information needed for voter registration, they are not added to the statewide voter registration database until they are 18 years old, or will be 18 years old before the next election. Such person's registration status will be pending until the person turns 18 years old. The Secretary must store the pending registration records in a manner that ensures the records do not appear on the official list of registered voters until the future voter is eligible to vote.

State agencies that offer voter registration services must ask its customers if they want to sign up to register to vote, and offer voter registration sign up services. The script that designated agencies use to ask customers if they wish to register to vote is modified to ask if the person is at least 16 years old.

An automatic registration process is created. Persons who are at least 16 years old and a U.S. citizen who are applying for or renewing an enhanced driver's license or identicaid may be automatically signed up to register to vote. The person must be informed that his or her record will be used for voter registration once they turn 18 years old, and offered the opportunity to decline to register. If the person does not decline, the DOL must store the application until the person is 17 years and 8 months of age, at which point the DOL must forward the application to the Secretary. The application is considered submitted once the application is forwarded to the Secretary. The information forwarded must contain the most recent residence and mailing address on file with the DOL.

An applicant for voter registration, and those signing up to register, must acknowledge that they must be 18 years old to vote. A challenge to a person's right to vote must be based on personal knowledge that the challenged voter is not 18 years old. A person who meets the qualifications to sign up to register to vote, and does so, is not guilty of a Class C felony.

The Secretary may employ additional security measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of voter pre-registration applications submitted electronically.

Temperance and Good Citizenship Day:

On the annual Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, social studies teachers must coordinate a voter registration event in each history or social studies class attended by high school seniors. As resources allow, county auditors may help coordinate and participate in these voter registration events. Each event must encourage students who will be at least 18 years old by the next general election to register to vote online from the classroom or by paper application. Teachers must make voter sign-up and registration available to all students. This voter registration event is known as the future voter program.

The Superintendent, in consultation with the Secretary, must update and distribute youth voter registration materials by December 1 each year, and electronically notify high school principals and secondary social studies and history teachers that the materials are available. The Superintendent must consult with the Secretary to provide registration methods that enable the electronic collection of information on the number of students who register at the registration event, with the goal of achieving at least 50,000 new voter registrations for 17 and 18 year olds annually, beginning January 2020. Starting on March 1, 2020, the Superintendent must report on yearly progress toward this goal, and provide recommendations for increasing youth voter registration, to the Governor and Legislature.

Voter Registration Database, the Public Records Act, and Jury List.

The county auditor must maintain custody of the original voter sign up records for registration. The Secretary must store the pending registration records for persons who sign up to register to vote and must ensure that the records will not appear on the official list of registered voters until the applicant is eligible to vote. The information contained in voter sign up records is exempt from public inspection and copying, and from inclusion on the jury source list.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 11, 2018.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2019.