
SENATE BILL 5409

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senator Fortunato

Read first time 01/17/23. Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring voter identifier numbers to match
2 driver's license or identicard numbers; and amending RCW 29A.08.125.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.08.125 and 2018 c 109 s 7 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The office of the secretary of state shall maintain a
7 statewide voter registration database. This database must be a
8 centralized, uniform, interactive computerized statewide voter
9 registration list that contains the name and registration information
10 of every registered voter in the state.

11 (2) The statewide list is the official list of registered voters
12 for the conduct of all elections.

13 (3) The statewide list must include, but is not limited to, the
14 name, date of birth, residence address, signature, gender, and date
15 of registration of every legally registered voter in the state.

16 (4) A unique identifier must be assigned to each registered voter
17 in the state, which shall be the voter's Washington state driver's
18 license number or identicard number. If the voter does not have a
19 Washington state driver's license or identicard, the voter must be
20 assigned a unique identification number that will become the voter's

1 Washington state driver's license or identicard number upon
2 application for a Washington state driver's license or identicard.

3 (5) The database must be coordinated with other government
4 databases within the state including, but not limited to, the
5 department of corrections, the department of licensing, the
6 department of health, the administrative office of the courts, and
7 county auditors. The database may also be coordinated with the
8 databases of election officials in other states.

9 (6) Authorized employees of the secretary of state and each
10 county auditor must have immediate electronic access to the
11 information maintained in the database.

12 (7) Voter registration information received by each county
13 auditor must be electronically entered into the database. The office
14 of the secretary of state must provide support, as needed, to enable
15 each county auditor to enter and maintain voter registration
16 information in the state database.

17 (8) The secretary of state has data authority over all voter
18 registration data.

19 (9) The voter registration database must be designed to
20 accomplish at a minimum, the following:

21 (a) Comply with the help America vote act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252);

22 (b) Identify duplicate voter registrations;

23 (c) Identify suspected duplicate voters;

24 (d) Screen against any available databases maintained by other
25 government agencies to identify voters who are ineligible to vote due
26 to a felony conviction, lack of citizenship, or mental incompetence;

27 (e) Provide images of voters' signatures for the purpose of
28 checking signatures on initiative and referendum petitions;

29 (f) Provide for a comparison between the voter registration
30 database and the department of licensing change of address database;

31 (g) Provide access for county auditors that includes the
32 capability to update registrations and search for duplicate
33 registrations;

34 (h) Provide for the cancellation of registrations of voters who
35 have moved out of state; and

36 (i) Provide for the storage of pending registration records for
37 all future voters who have not yet reached eighteen years of age in a
38 manner that these records will not appear on the official list of
39 registered voters until the future registrant is no longer in pending
40 status as defined under RCW 29A.08.615.

1 (10) The secretary of state may, upon agreement with other
2 appropriate jurisdictions, screen against any available databases
3 maintained by election officials in other states and databases
4 maintained by federal agencies including, but not limited to, the
5 federal bureau of investigation, the federal court system, the
6 federal bureau of prisons, and the bureau of citizenship and
7 immigration services.

8 (11) The database shall retain information regarding previous
9 successful appeals of proposed cancellations of registrations in
10 order to avoid repeated cancellations for the same reason.

11 (12) Each county auditor shall maintain a list of all registered
12 voters within the county that are contained on the official statewide
13 voter registration list. In addition to the information maintained in
14 the statewide database, the county database must also maintain the
15 applicable taxing district and precinct codes for each voter in the
16 county, and a list of elections in which the individual voted.

17 (13) Each county auditor shall allow electronic access and
18 information transfer between the county's voter registration system
19 and the official statewide voter registration list.

--- END ---