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HOUSE BILL 2875

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Ruderman, Miloscia, Nixon, Tom, Eickmeyer, Santos, Ormsby and Kagi

Read first time 01/21/2004. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to enhancing voting programs for young people;  
2            creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
5            enhance and promote the educational opportunities for young people to  
6            learn the rights and responsibilities of voting. Studies indicate that  
7            voter participation decreases in populations that have not been exposed  
8            to educational opportunities emphasizing the significance and impact of  
9            voting.

10           The legislature recognizes and appreciates the ongoing efforts and  
11           programs of the office of the secretary of state, the county auditors  
12           of the state, and other organizations that promote voting education  
13           programs for students.

14           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** (1) The secretary of state shall convene a  
15           task force to explore opportunities for enhancing voter education  
16           programs for persons under the age of eighteen.

17           (2) The task force shall be composed of sixteen members. Staff

1 support for the task force shall be provided by the office of the  
2 secretary of state.

3 (a) Four members shall be members of the legislature, one from each  
4 major caucus of the house of representatives, to be appointed by the  
5 speaker of the house, and one from each major caucus of the senate, to  
6 be appointed by the president of the senate;

7 (b) At least two members shall represent the office of the  
8 secretary of state;

9 (c) At least two members shall represent county auditors' offices;

10 (d) At least two members shall represent the office of the  
11 superintendent of public instruction, at least one of whom shall  
12 represent the office of private education within the office of the  
13 superintendent of public instruction;

14 (e) The remaining members shall be appointed by the office of the  
15 secretary of state from organizations that participate in voting,  
16 civics, or educational programs for youth.

17 (3) The task force shall:

18 (a) Research existing opportunities in Washington for high school  
19 students to learn the rights and responsibilities of voting;

20 (b) Share information regarding those programs and events in  
21 Washington or elsewhere that have been successful or effective;

22 (c) Research opportunities for organizations to collaborate when  
23 providing opportunities to expose high school students to the impacts  
24 of voting;

25 (d) Develop realistic and effective strategies to expose all high  
26 school students to voting education programs and events; and

27 (e) Research costs and explore possible funding opportunities.

28 (4) The task force shall make recommendations and report those  
29 recommendations back to the legislature during the 2006 legislative  
30 session.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire July 1,  
32 2006.

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