
SENATE BILL 5077

State of Washington

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2025 Regular Session

By Senators Valdez, Riccelli, Bateman, Frame, Hasegawa, Lias, Nobles, and Salomon

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1 AN ACT Relating to expansion of voter registration services by
2 government agencies; and amending RCW 29A.08.365, 29A.08.362,
3 29A.08.310, and 29A.08.123.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.08.365 and 2023 c 466 s 18 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The governor shall make a decision, in consultation with the
8 office of the secretary of state, as to whether each agency
9 identified in subsection (2) of this section shall implement
10 automatic voter registration. The final decision is at the governor's
11 sole discretion.

12 (2) This section applies to state agencies, other than the health
13 benefit exchange, providing public assistance or services to persons
14 with disabilities, designated pursuant to RCW 29A.08.310(1), that
15 collect, process, and store the following information as part of
16 providing assistance or services:

17 (a) Names;

18 (b) Traditional or nontraditional residential addresses;

19 (c) Dates of birth;

20 (d) A signature attesting to the truth of the information
21 provided on the application for assistance or services; and

1 (e) Verification of citizenship information, via social security
2 administration data match or manually verified by the agency during
3 the client transaction.

4 (3) Once an agency has implemented automatic voter registration,
5 it shall continue to provide automatic voter registration unless
6 legislation is enacted that directs the agency to do otherwise.

7 (4) Agencies may not begin verifying citizenship as part of an
8 agency transaction for the sole purpose of providing automatic voter
9 registration.

10 (5) The governor shall make a decision, in consultation with the
11 office of the secretary of state, as to whether state agencies that
12 collect, possess, and store the information identified in subsection
13 (2) of this section may implement automatic voter registration
14 through a procedure that substantially meets the requirements of RCW
15 29A.08.359, or as to whether state agencies that collect, possess,
16 and store the information in subsection (2)(a) through (c) of this
17 section may implement automatic updates of existing voter
18 registrations through a procedure that substantially meets the
19 requirements of RCW 29A.08.359. The governor shall make the same
20 decision, in consultation with the office of the secretary of state,
21 as to local, federal, or tribal agencies, including but not limited
22 to federal agencies administering naturalization ceremonies, provided
23 that such agencies consent to implementing automatic voter
24 registration or automatic updates of existing voter registrations.
25 The final decision is at the governor's sole discretion.

26 (6) After confirming that the application for assistance or
27 services identified in subsection (2) of this section contains a
28 signature attesting to the truth of the information provided on the
29 application, the secretary of state may obtain a digital copy of the
30 applicant's signature image from the department of licensing, if
31 available, for purposes of voter registration.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.08.362 and 2023 c 466 s 17 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The health benefit exchange shall provide the following
35 information to the secretary of state's office for consenting
36 Washington healthplanfinder applicants who affirmatively indicate
37 that they are interested in registering to vote, including applicants
38 who file changes of address, who reside in Washington, are age

1 eight years or older, and are verified citizens, for voter
2 registration purposes:

3 (a) Names;

4 (b) Traditional or nontraditional residential addresses;

5 (c) Mailing addresses, if different from the traditional or
6 nontraditional residential address; and

7 (d) Dates of birth.

8 (2) The health benefit exchange shall consult with the secretary
9 of state's office to ensure that sufficient information is provided
10 to allow the secretary of state to obtain a digital copy of the
11 person's signature when available from the department of licensing
12 and establish other criteria and procedures that are secure and
13 compliant with federal and state voter registration and privacy laws
14 and rules.

15 (3)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the health
16 benefit exchange may provide the information identified in subsection
17 (1)(a) through (d) of this section to the secretary of state's office
18 for Washington healthplanfinder applicants, including applicants who
19 file changes of address, who reside in Washington, who are age 18
20 years or older, and whose citizenship is reliably verified through an
21 electronic database match as part of the eligibility determination
22 process, if:

23 (i) The health benefit exchange sends the applicant a notice
24 within five business days of the original application informing the
25 applicant that the health benefit exchange will provide the
26 information identified in subsection (1)(a) through (d) of this
27 section to the secretary of state's office for voter registration
28 purposes unless the applicant declines; and

29 (ii) The applicant does not respond to the notice identified in
30 (a)(i) of this subsection to decline to provide their information for
31 voter registration within 15 days from the date of mailing.

32 (b) If the secretary of state provides voter registration data to
33 the health benefit exchange showing that an applicant has an existing
34 voter registration and the information identified in subsection
35 (1)(a) through (d) of this section shows no name change or change of
36 residence or mailing address, the health benefit exchange is not
37 required to send the notice identified in subsection (a)(i) of this
38 subsection or transmit the information identified in subsection
39 (1)(a) through (d) of this section to the secretary of state. The

1 secretary of state may serve as the agent of the health benefit
2 exchange for purposes of this subsection.

3 (4) Upon receipt of the information through the procedure
4 identified in subsection (3) of this section, the secretary of state
5 shall implement automatic voter registration through a procedure that
6 substantially meets the requirements of RCW 29A.08.359.

7 (5) If the health benefit exchange determines, in consultation
8 with the health care authority, that implementation of an automatic
9 voter registration system requires approval from the centers for
10 medicare and medicaid services, then any implementation is contingent
11 on receiving that approval.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.08.310 and 2019 c 6 s 4 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) The governor, in consultation with the secretary of state,
15 shall designate agencies to provide voter registration services in
16 compliance with federal statutes. The governor, in consultation with
17 the secretary of state, may designate local, federal, or tribal
18 agencies, including but not limited to federal agencies administering
19 naturalization ceremonies, to provide voter registration services,
20 provided that such agencies consent to providing voter registration
21 services.

22 (2) A federally recognized tribe may request that the governor
23 designate one or more state facilities or state-funded facilities or
24 programs that are located on the lands of the requesting Indian tribe
25 or that are substantially engaged in providing services to Indian
26 tribes, as selected by the tribe, to provide voter registration
27 services. This provision does not alter the state's obligations under
28 the national voter registration act.

29 (3) Each state agency designated shall provide voter registration
30 services for employees and the public within each office of that
31 agency.

32 (4) The secretary of state shall design and provide a standard
33 notice informing the public of the availability of voter
34 registration, which notice shall be posted in each state agency where
35 such services are available.

36 (5) Each institution of higher education shall put in place an
37 active prompt on its course registration website, or similar website
38 that students actively and regularly use, that, if selected, will
39 link the student to the secretary of state's voter registration

1 website. The prompt must ask the student if he or she wishes to
2 register to vote.

3 (6) If the governor, in consultation with the secretary of state,
4 designates the department of corrections to provide voter
5 registration services under this section, a county auditor shall
6 process a voter registration application from a person transmitted by
7 the department of corrections as an application to sign up to
8 register to vote. A person who signs up to register to vote under
9 this subsection is classified as pending until such time as he or she
10 will be eligible to vote in the next election. An acknowledgment
11 notice shall not be sent prior to receipt of notice from the
12 department of corrections that a person is released from, or
13 transferred to partial confinement from, total confinement under the
14 jurisdiction of the department of corrections.

15 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.08.123 and 2023 c 363 s 1 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) A person qualified to vote who has a valid:

- 18 (a) Washington state driver's license;
- 19 (b) Washington state identification card;
- 20 (c) Washington state learner's permit;
- 21 (d) Current Washington tribal identification; or
- 22 (e) Social security number,

23 may submit a voter registration application electronically on the
24 secretary of state's website, and provide either the state issued
25 identification number, the tribal identification number, or the last
26 four digits of the person's social security number.

27 (2) The applicant must attest to the truth of the information
28 provided on the application and confirm the applicant's United States
29 citizenship by reviewing the registration oath online and
30 affirmatively accepting the information as true.

31 (3) For applicants using Washington state issued identification,
32 the applicant must affirmatively assent to use of the applicant's
33 driver's license or state identification card signature for voter
34 registration purposes.

35 (4) For applicants who are not using Washington state issued
36 identification, the applicant must submit a signature image by either
37 submitting a signature image to the secretary of state, or submitting
38 a signature image as part of the confirmation notice process.

1 (5) A voter registration application submitted electronically is
2 otherwise considered a registration by mail.

3 (6) For each electronic application, the secretary of state must
4 obtain a digital copy of the applicant's driver's license or state
5 identification card signature from the department of licensing, the
6 voter, or tribal identification issuing authority.

7 (7) The secretary of state may employ additional security
8 measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of voter registration
9 applications submitted electronically.

10 (8) The secretary of state may employ an application programming
11 interface to allow a person to securely submit a voter registration
12 application electronically to the secretary of state through the
13 website of a government agency, institution of higher learning, or
14 third-party organization. In order to facilitate an electronic
15 application under this subsection, a government agency, institution
16 of higher learning, or third-party organization must be approved
17 under a process designed by the secretary of state.

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