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**SENATE BILL 5077**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Valdez and Riccelli

Prefiled 12/18/24.

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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