
HOUSE BILL 2306

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Smith, B. Thomas, Bush and Dunn

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1 AN ACT Relating to voter registration; amending RCW 29.07.005,
2 29.07.070, 29.07.260, 29.08.060, 29.08.080, and 46.20.155; and
3 repealing RCW 29.07.080.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.07.005 and 1994 c 57 s 9 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 As used in this chapter and chapter 29.08 RCW, "information
8 required for voter registration" or "required information" means the
9 minimum information provided on a voter registration application that
10 is required by the county auditor in order to place a voter
11 registration applicant on the voter registration rolls. This
12 information includes the applicant's citizenship designated as being
13 United States citizenship, the applicant's name, complete residence
14 address, date of birth, and a signature attesting to the truth of the
15 information provided on the application. All other information
16 supplied is ancillary and not to be used as grounds for not registering
17 an applicant to vote.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.07.070 and 1994 c 57 s 11 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) Except as provided under RCW 29.07.260, an applicant for voter
4 registration shall complete an application providing the following
5 information concerning his or her qualifications as a voter in this
6 state:

7 ~~((1))~~ (a) The applicant's citizenship;

8 (b) The address of the last former registration of the applicant as
9 a voter in the state;

10 ~~((2))~~ (c) The applicant's full name;

11 ~~((3))~~ (d) The applicant's date of birth;

12 ~~((4))~~ (e) The address of the applicant's residence for voting
13 purposes;

14 ~~((5))~~ (f) The mailing address of the applicant if that address is
15 not the same as the address in ~~((subsection (4)))~~ (e) of this
16 subsection;

17 ~~((6))~~ (g) The sex of the applicant~~((7~~

18 ~~(7) A declaration that the applicant is a citizen of the United~~
19 ~~States)); and~~

20 ~~((8))~~ (h) Any other information that the secretary of state
21 determines is necessary to establish the identity of the applicant and
22 prevent duplicate or fraudulent voter registrations.

23 This information shall be recorded on a single registration form to
24 be prescribed by the secretary of state.

25 If the applicant fails to provide the information required for
26 voter registration, the auditor shall send the applicant a verification
27 notice. The auditor shall not register the applicant until the
28 required information is provided. If a verification notice is returned
29 as undeliverable or the applicant fails to respond to the notice within
30 forty-five days, the auditor shall not register the applicant to vote.

31 (2) The applicant shall sign and attest to the following oath:

32 "I declare that the facts on this voter registration form are true.
33 I am a citizen of the United States, I am not presently denied my civil
34 rights as a result of being convicted of a felony, I will have lived in
35 Washington at this address for thirty days before the next election at
36 which I vote, and I will be at least eighteen years old when I vote."

37 (3) The following warning shall appear in a conspicuous place on
38 the voter registration form:

1 "If you knowingly provide false information on this voter
2 registration form or knowingly make a false declaration about your
3 qualifications for voter registration you will have committed a class
4 C felony that is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, or by
5 a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both imprisonment and fine."

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.07.260 and 1994 c 57 s 21 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) A person may register to vote or transfer a voter registration
9 when he or she applies for or renews a driver's license or
10 identification card under chapter 46.20 RCW.

11 (2) To register to vote or transfer a voter registration under this
12 section, the applicant shall provide the following:

13 (a) ~~((His or her))~~ The applicant's citizenship;

14 (b) The applicant's full name;

15 ~~((b))~~ (c) Whether the address in the driver's license file is the
16 same as ((his or her)) the applicant's residence for voting purposes;

17 ~~((e))~~ (d) The address of the residence for voting purposes if it
18 is different from the address in the driver's license file;

19 ~~((d) His or her))~~ (e) The applicant's mailing address if it is not
20 the same as the address in ((e)) (d) of this subsection;

21 ~~((e))~~ (f) Additional information on the geographic location of
22 that voting residence if it is only identified by route or box;

23 ~~((f))~~ (g) The last address at which ((he or she)) the applicant
24 was registered to vote in this state((;

25 ~~(g) A declaration that he or she is a citizen of the United~~
26 ~~States)); and~~

27 (h) Any other information that the secretary of state determines is
28 necessary to establish the identity of the applicant and to prevent
29 duplicate or fraudulent voter registrations.

30 (3) The following warning shall appear in a conspicuous place on
31 the voter registration form:

32 "If you knowingly provide false information on this voter
33 registration form or knowingly make a false declaration about your
34 qualifications for voter registration you will have committed a class
35 C felony that is punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, or by
36 a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both imprisonment and fine."

1 (4) The applicant shall sign a portion of the form that can be used
2 as an initiative signature card for the verification of petition
3 signatures by the secretary of state and shall sign and attest to the
4 following oath:

5 "I declare that the facts on this voter registration form are true.
6 I am a citizen of the United States, I am not presently denied my civil
7 rights as a result of being convicted of a felony, I will have lived in
8 Washington at this address for thirty days before the next election at
9 which I vote, and I will be at least eighteen years old when I vote."

10 (5) The driver licensing agent shall record that the applicant has
11 requested to register to vote or transfer a voter registration.

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.08.060 and 1994 c 57 s 32 are each amended to read
13 as follows:

14 (1) On receipt of an application for voter registration under this
15 chapter, the county auditor shall review the application to determine
16 whether the information supplied is complete. An application that
17 contains the applicant's citizenship designated as being United States
18 citizenship, the applicant's name, complete valid residence address,
19 date of birth, and signature attesting to the truth of the information
20 provided on the application is complete. If it is not complete, the
21 auditor shall promptly mail a verification notice of the deficiency to
22 the applicant. This verification notice shall require the applicant to
23 provide the missing information. If the verification notice is not
24 returned by the applicant or is returned as undeliverable the auditor
25 shall not place the name of the applicant on the county voter list. If
26 the applicant provides the required information, the applicant shall be
27 registered to vote as of the date of mailing of the original voter
28 registration application.

29 (2) If the information is complete, the applicant is considered to
30 be registered to vote as of the date of mailing. The auditor shall
31 record the appropriate precinct identification, taxing district
32 identification, and date of registration on the voter's record. Within
33 forty-five days after the receipt of an application but no later than
34 seven days before the next primary, special election, or general
35 election, the auditor shall send to the applicant, by first class mail,
36 an acknowledgement notice identifying the registrant's precinct and
37 containing such other information as may be required by the secretary

1 of state. The postal service shall be instructed not to forward a
2 voter registration card to any other address and to return to the
3 auditor any card which is not deliverable. If the applicant has
4 indicated that he or she is registered to vote in another county in
5 Washington but has also provided an address within the auditor's county
6 that is for voter registration purposes, the auditor shall send, on
7 behalf of the registrant, a registration cancellation notice to the
8 auditor of that other county and the auditor receiving the notice shall
9 cancel the registrant's voter registration in that other county. If
10 the registrant has indicated on the form that he or she is registered
11 to vote within the county but has provided a new address within the
12 county that is for voter registration purposes, the auditor shall
13 transfer the voter's registration.

14 (3) If an acknowledgement notice card is properly mailed as
15 required by this section to the address listed by the voter as being
16 the voter's mailing address and the notice is subsequently returned to
17 the auditor by the postal service as being undeliverable to the voter
18 at that address, the auditor shall promptly send the voter a
19 confirmation notice. The auditor shall place the voter's registration
20 on inactive status pending a response from the voter to the
21 confirmation notice.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.08.080 and 1993 c 434 s 8 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 The secretary of state shall furnish registration forms necessary
25 to carry out the registration of voters as provided by this chapter
26 without cost to the respective counties. ~~((However, costs incurred by
27 the secretary of state during 1994 and 1995 in the printing and
28 distribution of voter registration forms shall be reimbursed by the
29 counties. This cost shall be considered an election cost under RCW
30 29.13.045 and be prorated as part of the 1994 and 1995 general election
31 costs.))~~

32 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.20.155 and 1990 c 143 s 6 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 Before issuing an original license or identification card or
35 renewing a license or identification card under this chapter, the
36 licensing agent shall determine if the applicant wants to register to

1 vote or transfer his or her voter registration by asking the following
2 as a single question:

3 "Are you a United States citizen and do you want to register to
4 vote or transfer your voter registration?".

5 If the applicant (~~(chooses to register or transfer a registration)~~)
6 responds in the affirmative, the agent shall provide the applicant with
7 a voter registration form and instructions and shall record that the
8 applicant has requested to register to vote or transfer a voter
9 registration.

10 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. RCW 29.07.080 and 1994 c 57 s 12, 1990 c 143
11 s 8, 1973 1st ex.s. c 21 s 4, 1971 ex.s. c 202 s 10, & 1965 c 9 s
12 29.07.080 are each repealed.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. If any provision of this act or its
14 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
15 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
16 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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