HOUSE BILL 2332

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State of Washington   **57th Legislature**   **2002 Regular Session**

By Representatives Romero, McDermott, D. Schmidt, Woods, Ruderman, Miloscia, Esser and Kagi; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 01/15/2002. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1   AN ACT Relating to a statewide voter registration data base; adding
2 a new section to chapter 29.04 RCW; creating a new section; providing
3 an effective date; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that national
7 task forces studying election issues have identified statewide voter
8 registration systems as important tools for protecting the integrity of
9 elections, and it is likely that federal funds will be made available
10 for states that employ statewide voter registration systems.
11 Therefore, the legislature finds a need for the state of Washington to
12 begin the process of creating such a system.

13   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29.04 RCW
14 to read as follows:
15   (1) The office of the secretary of state shall work in conjunction
16 with the county auditors of the state of Washington to initiate the
17 creation of a statewide voter registration data base. The secretary of
18 state shall identify a group of voter registration experts whose

1 responsibility will be to work on a design for the voter registration
2 data base system.   The secretary of state shall report back the
3 findings of this group to the legislature no later than February 1,
4 2003.
5   (2) Among the intended goals the voter registration data base must
6 be designed to accomplish at a minimum, are the following:
7   (a) Identify duplicate voter registrations;
8   (b) Identify suspected duplicate voters;
9   (c) Screen against the department of corrections data base to aid
10 in the cancellation of voter registration of felons;
11   (d) Provide up-to-date signatures of voters for the purposes of
12 initiative signature checking;
13   (e) Provide for a comparison between the voter registration data
14 base and the department of licensing change of address data base;
15   (f) Provide online access for county auditors with the goal of real
16 time duplicate checking and update capabilities, if sufficient funds
17 are available;
18   (g) Provide for the cancellation of voter registration for persons
19 who have moved to other states and surrendered their Washington state
20 drivers' licenses;
21   (h) Ensure that each county shall maintain legal control of the
22 registration records for that county.

23   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
25 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
26 May 1, 2002.

27   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act expires January 1, 2005.

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