
HOUSE BILL 2529

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Nixon and McCune

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to use of nontraditional addresses for voter
2 registration purposes; amending RCW 29A.08.112 and 29A.08.107; and
3 adding a new section to chapter 29A.04 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.04 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 "Residential address" or "traditional address" means the place
8 where the voter resides.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.08.112 and 2005 c 246 s 6 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 No person registering to vote, who meets all the qualifications of
12 a registered voter in the state of Washington, shall be disqualified
13 because of a nontraditional address being used as a residence address.
14 Voters who have a traditional address must provide their traditional
15 address for voter registration purposes, and they may not choose to use
16 a nontraditional address as an alternate address. Voters using such an
17 address will be registered and assigned to a precinct based on the
18 location provided. Voters without a traditional address will be

1 registered at the county courthouse, city hall, or other public
2 building near the area that the voter considers his or her residence.
3 Registering at a nontraditional address will not disqualify a voter
4 from requesting ongoing absentee voter status if the voter designates
5 a valid mailing address.

6 For the purposes of this section, "nontraditional address" includes
7 shelters, parks, or other identifiable locations that the voter deems
8 to be his or her residence.

9 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.08.107 and 2005 c 246 s 4 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1) The secretary of state must review the information provided by
12 each voter registration applicant to ensure that the provided driver's
13 license number, state identification card number, or last four digits
14 of the Social Security number match the information maintained by the
15 Washington department of licensing or the Social Security
16 administration. If a match cannot be made, the secretary of state or
17 county auditor must correspond with the applicant to resolve the
18 discrepancy.

19 (2) If the applicant fails to respond to any correspondence
20 required in this section to confirm information provided on a voter
21 registration application within forty-five days, the applicant will not
22 be registered to vote. The secretary of state shall forward the
23 application to the appropriate county auditor for document storage.

24 (3) Only after the secretary of state has confirmed that the
25 provided driver's license number, state identification card number, or
26 last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number match
27 existing records with the Washington department of licensing or the
28 Social Security administration, or determined that the applicant does
29 not have a driver's license number, state identification card number,
30 or Social Security number may the applicant be placed on the official
31 list of registered voters.

32 (4) In order to prevent duplicate registration records, all
33 complete voter registration applications must be screened against
34 existing voter registration records in the official statewide voter
35 registration list. If a match of an existing record is found in the
36 official list, the record must be updated with the new information

1 provided on the application. If the new information indicates that the
2 voter has changed his or her county of residence, the application must
3 be forwarded to the voter's new county of residence for processing.

4 (5) At least annually, the secretary of state shall search the
5 residential addresses of all voter registration records in the voter
6 registration data base for major public building addresses throughout
7 the state. For purposes of this subsection, "major public buildings"
8 includes city, county, state, and federal administrative buildings,
9 courthouses, and police stations.

10 (a) For each search result, the secretary of state shall determine
11 whether the voter is properly registered at the major public building
12 under a lawful program that permits the voter to use a nontraditional
13 address as his or her residential address, such as the address
14 confidentiality program as defined in chapter 40.24 RCW.

15 (b) If it appears that the voter has improperly listed a public
16 building as a residence for purposes of voter registration, the
17 secretary of state shall send notice by certified mail to the voter of
18 the apparent improper residential address. The notice shall provide
19 that the voter must respond within thirty days of the date of the
20 notice by providing the secretary of state with: (i) The voter's
21 actual residential address, or (ii) evidence that he or she is properly
22 registered at the major public building. The notice shall also advise
23 the voter of the penalties for providing false information on an
24 application for voter registration.

25 (c) If the voter fails to respond within thirty days to the
26 secretary of state's satisfaction, the secretary of state shall forward
27 a copy of all relevant information to the prosecuting authorities.

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