
SENATE BILL 6530

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Finkbeiner, Fairley, Berkey, Benton and Kline; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 01/13/2006. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to electronic voter registration; amending RCW
2 29A.08.010, 29A.08.110, 29A.08.107, 29A.08.145, and 29A.08.210;
3 repealing RCW 29A.08.230 and 29A.72.220; and providing an effective
4 date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.08.010 and 2005 c 246 s 2 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 As used in this chapter: "Information required for voter
9 registration" means the minimum information provided on a voter
10 registration application that is required by the county auditor in
11 order to place a voter registration applicant on the voter registration
12 rolls. This information includes:

13 (1) Name;

14 (2) Residential address;

15 (3) Date of birth;

16 (4) Washington state driver's license number or Washington state
17 identification card number, or the last four digits of the applicant's
18 Social Security number if the applicant does not have a Washington
19 state driver's license or Washington state identification card;

1 (5)(a) A signature attesting to the truth of the information
2 provided on the application; or

3 (b) Affirmative acceptance of the information on an electronic
4 voter registration application as true and a signature obtained from
5 the department of licensing; and

6 (6) A check or indication in the box confirming the individual is
7 a United States citizen.

8 If the individual does not have a driver's license, state
9 identification card, or Social Security number, the registrant must be
10 issued a unique voter registration number in order to be placed on the
11 voter registration rolls. All other information supplied is ancillary
12 and not to be used as grounds for not registering an applicant to vote.
13 Modification of the language of the official Washington state voter
14 registration form by the voter will not be accepted and will cause the
15 rejection of the registrant's application.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.08.110 and 2005 c 246 s 5 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) An application is considered complete only if it contains:

19 (a) The applicant's name((τ))*i*

20 (b) The applicant's complete valid residence address((τ))*i*

21 (c) The applicant's date of birth((τ))*i*

22 (d) A signature attesting to the truth of the information provided,
23 or, in the case of an electronic application, affirmative acceptance of
24 the information as true and a signature obtained from the department of
25 licensing;

26 (e) A mark in the check-off box confirming United States
27 citizenship((τ))*i* and

28 (f) An indication that the provided driver's license number, state
29 identification card number, or Social Security number has been
30 confirmed by the secretary of state.

31 If ((~~it~~)) the application is not complete, the auditor shall
32 promptly mail a verification notice of the deficiency to the applicant.
33 This verification notice shall require the applicant to provide the
34 missing information. If the verification notice is not returned by the
35 applicant within forty-five days or is returned as undeliverable, the
36 name of the applicant shall not be placed on the official list of

1 registered voters. If the applicant provides the required verified
2 information, the applicant shall be registered to vote as of the
3 original date of mailing or date of delivery, whichever is applicable.

4 (2) If the information required in subsection (1) of this section
5 is complete, the applicant is considered to be registered to vote as of
6 the original date of mailing ~~((or))~~ date of delivery, ~~((whichever is
7 applicable))~~ or date of submission in the case of an electronic
8 application. The auditor shall record the appropriate precinct
9 identification, taxing district identification, and date of
10 registration on the voter's record in the state voter registration
11 list. Within forty-five days after the receipt of an application but
12 no later than seven days before the next primary, special election, or
13 general election, the auditor shall send to the applicant, by first
14 class mail, an acknowledgement notice identifying the registrant's
15 precinct and containing such other information as may be required by
16 the secretary of state. The postal service shall be instructed not to
17 forward a voter registration card to any other address and to return to
18 the auditor any card which is not deliverable.

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

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

29 (1) The secretary of state must review the information provided by
30 each voter registration applicant to ensure that the provided driver's
31 license number, state identification card number, or last four digits
32 of the Social Security number match the information maintained by the
33 Washington department of licensing or the Social Security
34 administration. If a match cannot be made, the secretary of state or
35 county auditor must correspond with the applicant to resolve the
36 discrepancy.

1 (2) If the applicant submitted an electronic voter registration
2 application, the secretary of state must obtain a digital copy of the
3 applicant's driver's license or state identification card signature
4 from the department of licensing.

5 (3) If the applicant fails to respond to any correspondence
6 required in this section to confirm information provided on a voter
7 registration application within forty-five days, the applicant will not
8 be registered to vote. The secretary of state shall forward the
9 application to the appropriate county auditor for document storage.

10 (~~(3)~~) (4) Only after the secretary of state has confirmed that
11 the provided driver's license number, state identification card number,
12 or last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number match
13 existing records with the Washington department of licensing or the
14 Social Security administration, or determined that the applicant does
15 not have a driver's license number, state identification card number,
16 or Social Security number may the applicant be placed on the official
17 list of registered voters.

18 (~~(4)~~) (5) In order to prevent duplicate registration records, all
19 complete voter registration applications must be screened against
20 existing voter registration records in the official statewide voter
21 registration list. If a match of an existing record is found in the
22 official list, the record must be updated with the new information
23 provided on the application. If the new information indicates that the
24 voter has changed his or her county of residence, the application must
25 be forwarded to the voter's new county of residence for processing.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.08.145 and 2005 c 246 s 10 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 This section establishes a special procedure which an elector may
29 use to register to vote or transfer a voter registration by changing
30 his or her address during the period beginning after the closing of
31 registration for voting at the polls under RCW 29A.08.140 and ending on
32 the fifteenth day before a primary, special election, or general
33 election. A qualified elector in the state may register to vote or
34 change his or her registration address in person in the office of the
35 county auditor of the county in which the applicant resides, or at a
36 voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by
37 the county auditor or secretary of state, and apply for an absentee

1 ballot for that primary or election. The auditor or registration
2 assistant shall register that individual in the manner provided in this
3 chapter. The application for an absentee ballot executed by the newly
4 registered or transferred voter for the primary or election that
5 follows the execution of the registration shall be promptly transmitted
6 to the auditor with the completed voter registration form. An elector
7 may not register to vote under this section using an electronic voter
8 registration application.

9 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.08.210 and 2005 c 246 s 11 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 An applicant for voter registration shall complete an application
12 providing the following information concerning his or her
13 qualifications as a voter in this state:

14 (1) The address of the last former registration of the applicant as
15 a voter in the state;

16 (2) The applicant's full name;

17 (3) The applicant's date of birth;

18 (4) The address of the applicant's residence for voting purposes;

19 (5) The mailing address of the applicant if that address is not the
20 same as the address in subsection (4) of this section;

21 (6) The sex of the applicant;

22 (7) The applicant's Washington state driver's license number or
23 Washington state identification card number, or the last four digits of
24 the applicant's Social Security number if he or she does not have a
25 Washington state driver's license or Washington state identification
26 card;

27 (8) A check box for the applicant to indicate that he or she does
28 not have a Washington state driver's license, Washington state
29 identification card, or Social Security number;

30 (9) A check box allowing the applicant to indicate that he or she
31 is a member of the armed forces, national guard, or reserves, or that
32 he or she is an overseas voter;

33 (10) A check box allowing the applicant to confirm that he or she
34 ~~((is))~~ will be at least eighteen years of age before the next election;

35 (11) Clear and conspicuous language, designed to draw the
36 applicant's attention, stating that the applicant must be a United
37 States citizen in order to register to vote;

1 (12) A check box and declaration confirming that the applicant is
2 a citizen of the United States;

3 (13) The following warning:

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

9 (14) The following affirmation by the applicant:

10 "By signing this document, I hereby assert, under penalty of
11 perjury, that I am legally eligible to vote. If I am found to have
12 voted illegally, I may be prosecuted and/or fined for this illegal act.
13 In addition, I hereby acknowledge that my name and last known address
14 will be forwarded to the appropriate state and/or federal authorities
15 if I am found to have voted illegally."

16 (15) The following oath (~~(required by RCW 29A.08.230 and a)~~):

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

23 (16) A space for the applicant's signature, or, in the case of an
24 electronic application, affirmative acceptance of the information on
25 the application as true and assent to use of the applicant's driver's
26 license or state identification card signature for voter registration
27 purposes; and

28 ~~((+16+))~~ (17) Any other information that the secretary of state
29 determines is necessary to establish the identity of the applicant and
30 prevent duplicate or fraudulent voter registrations.

31 This information shall be recorded on a single registration form to
32 be prescribed by the secretary of state. The information may be
33 recorded on an electronic voter registration application provided on
34 the secretary of state's web site. In order to submit an electronic
35 voter registration application, the applicant must have a Washington
36 state driver's license or Washington state identification card, and
37 must agree to use of the driver's license or state identification card
38 signature for voter registration purposes.

1 If the applicant fails to provide the information required for
2 voter registration, the auditor shall send the applicant a verification
3 notice. The applicant may not be registered until the required
4 information is provided. If a verification notice is returned as
5 undeliverable or the applicant fails to respond to the notice within
6 forty-five days, the applicant shall not be registered to vote.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
8 repealed:

9 (1) RCW 29A.08.230 (Oath of applicant) and 2003 c 111 s 218, 1994
10 c 57 s 12, 1990 c 143 s 8, 1973 1st ex.s. c 21 s 4, 1971 ex.s. c 202 s
11 10, & 1965 c 9 s 29.07.080; and

12 (2) RCW 29A.72.220 (Petitions--Signature checking--Registration
13 information file) and 2003 c 111 s 1801.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect January 1, 2007.

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