
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1363

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives Miloscia, Chase, Hasegawa, McDermott, Pettigrew, Upthegrove, Roberts, Darneille and Goodman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to voter registration at state agencies; amending
2 RCW 29A.08.310 and 29A.08.330; and adding new sections to chapter
3 29A.08 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.08 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that one of the most fundamental rights is
8 the right to vote, and it is the primary duty of government to actively
9 encourage voter registration and to make this opportunity widely
10 available to eligible citizens. It is the intent of the legislature
11 that all state agencies and their vendors, contractors, and partners
12 shall consider ways to increase and improve voter registration services
13 so that, of its eligible population, Washington has the highest
14 percentage of registered voters.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 A person may register to vote, transfer a voter registration, or
18 change his or her name for voter registration purposes when he or she

1 applies in person for public assistance, disability services, or makes
2 an in-person report of an address change at an employment security
3 department facility or the department of social and health services.
4 Voter registration procedures at these agencies shall be pursuant to
5 RCW 29A.08.330.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.08 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) State agencies providing voter registration services, whether
9 designated by the governor or required by statute, shall keep records
10 reflecting the number of persons who:

11 (a) Request, apply for, or receive a service from those agencies,
12 including reporting a change of address;

13 (b) Register to vote, transfer a voter registration, or decline to
14 either register to vote or transfer a voter registration;

15 (c) Request a voter registration application but do not return it
16 to the agency staff.

17 (2) The secretary of state shall produce an annual report, with
18 appropriate performance measures, from this data on a county by county
19 basis. The data should be reported in aggregate terms and not with
20 reference to individual voters. The report must:

21 (a) Show the number of registered voters as a reflection of the
22 number of eligible voting population in each county;

23 (b) Identify the chief challenges in increasing voter registration;
24 and

25 (c) Recommend action for increasing the percentage of registered
26 voters.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.08.310 and 2003 c 111 s 222 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) The governor, in consultation with the secretary of state,
30 shall designate agencies to provide voter registration services in
31 compliance with federal statutes. New agencies, vendors, or
32 contractors, shall be added as appropriate on a biennial basis.

33 (2) Each state agency designated shall provide voter registration
34 services for employees and the public within each office of that
35 agency.

1 (3) The secretary of state shall design and provide a standard
2 notice informing the public of the availability of voter registration,
3 which notice shall be posted in each state agency where such services
4 are available.

5 (4) The secretary of state shall post on its web site the list of
6 state agencies that provide voter registration services and shall
7 update this list as new agencies are added.

8 (5) The secretary of state shall design and provide standard voter
9 registration forms for use by these state agencies.

10 ~~((5))~~ (6) Each ~~((institution of higher education shall put in~~
11 ~~place an active prompt on its course registration web site, or similar~~
12 ~~web site that students actively and regularly use, that, if selected,~~
13 ~~will link the student))~~ state agency shall place a link on its web site
14 to the secretary of state's voter registration web site. ((The prompt
15 must ask the student if he or she wishes to register to vote.))

16 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.08.330 and 2005 c 246 s 14 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The secretary of state shall prescribe the method of voter
19 registration for each designated agency. The agency shall use either
20 the state voter registration by mail form with a separate declination
21 form for the applicant to indicate that he or she declines to register
22 at this time, or the agency may use a separate form approved for use by
23 the secretary of state.

24 (2) The person providing service at the agency shall offer voter
25 registration services to every client whenever he or she applies for
26 service or assistance and with each renewal, recertification, or change
27 of address. The person providing service shall give the applicant the
28 same level of assistance with the voter registration application as is
29 offered to fill out the agency's forms and documents, including
30 information about age and citizenship requirements for voter
31 registration. The person providing service at the agency shall not
32 make any statement that would discourage the applicant from registering
33 to vote, or lead the applicant to believe that a decision to register
34 or not to register has any bearing on the eligibility or the
35 availability of the public service or assistance.

36 (3) The person providing service at the agency shall determine if

1 the prospective applicant wants to register to vote or transfer his or
2 her voter registration by asking the following question:

3 "Do you want to register to vote or transfer your voter
4 registration?"

5 If the applicant chooses to register or transfer a registration,
6 the service agent shall ask the following:

- 7 (a) "Are you a United States citizen?"
- 8 (b) "Are you or will you be eighteen years of age on or before the
9 next election?"

10 If the applicant answers in the affirmative to both questions, the
11 agent shall then provide the applicant with a voter registration form
12 and instructions and shall record that the applicant has requested to
13 register to vote or transfer a voter registration. If the applicant
14 answers in the negative to either question, the agent shall not provide
15 the applicant with a voter registration form.

16 (4) If an agency uses a computerized application process, it may,
17 in consultation with the secretary of state, develop methods to capture
18 simultaneously the information required for voter registration during
19 a person's computerized application process.

20 (5) Each designated agency shall provide for the voter registration
21 application forms to be collected from each agency office at least once
22 each week. The agency shall then forward the application forms to the
23 secretary of state each week. The secretary of state shall forward the
24 forms to the county in which the applicant has registered to vote no
25 later than ten days after the date on which the forms were received by
26 the secretary of state.

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