
HOUSE BILL 2192

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Farivar, Cheney, Bergquist, Reed, Simmons, Ormsby, Ramel, Callan, Macri, Fosse, Stonier, Mena, Berg, Timmons, Riccelli, Reeves, and Pollet; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Prefiled 01/05/24. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to celebrating national voter registration day;
2 amending RCW 28A.230.150; adding a new section to chapter 28A.230
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance
6 of fostering lifelong civic engagement and that there is an
7 opportunity to align Washington state with the national voting rights
8 day celebrations and activities, both benefiting teachers and
9 improving the civic engagement of high school students. The
10 legislature recognizes that moving some activities from January 16th
11 to the third Tuesday in September allows for teachers to incorporate
12 civic education lessons and voter registration activities closer to
13 the November general election. Therefore, the legislature intends to
14 align Washington state with national civic engagement activities by
15 celebrating national voter registration day.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.150 and 2018 c 109 s 3 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) On January 16th of each year or the preceding Friday when
19 January 16th falls on a nonschool day, there shall be observed within
20 each public school "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day." Annually

1 the state superintendent of public instruction shall duly prepare and
2 publish for circulation among the teachers of the state a program for
3 use on such day embodying topics pertinent thereto and may from year
4 to year designate particular laws for special observance.

5 (2) Each year on "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day," social
6 studies teachers must, as resources allow, coordinate a voter
7 registration event in each history or social studies class attended
8 by high school seniors. ~~((This event is part of the future voter
9 program. Teachers must make voter sign up and registration available
10 to all students.~~

11 ~~(3) County auditors may, as resources allow, help coordinate
12 elements of the future voter program, and participate in voter
13 registration events for students on "Temperance and Good Citizenship
14 Day."~~

15 ~~(4) On each temperance and good citizenship day all students who
16 will be eighteen years of age or older by the time of the next
17 general election will be given the opportunity to register to vote
18 online in the classroom. Paper registration must also be made
19 available in the classroom. Students who do not possess a state
20 identicard or driver's license must be provided a paper registration
21 form. The event must include adequate time for students to complete
22 the registration process in class.~~

23 ~~(5) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation
24 with the secretary of state, must update and distribute youth voter
25 registration materials annually, by December 1st, for eligible
26 students to register to vote at school. Electronic notification of
27 the availability of the materials must be distributed to high school
28 principals and secondary social studies and history teachers.~~

29 ~~(6) The superintendent of public instruction must consult with
30 the secretary of state to provide registration methods that enable
31 the electronic collection of information on the number of students
32 who registered to vote on "Temperance and Good Citizenship Day," with
33 the goal of achieving at least fifty thousand new voter registrations
34 for seventeen and eighteen year olds annually, beginning in January
35 2020.~~

36 ~~(7) Beginning March 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the
37 superintendent of public instruction must report on yearly progress
38 toward the goal established in subsection (5) of this section,
39 including the number of seventeen and eighteen year olds registered
40 to vote by county and recommendations for increasing youth voter~~

1 registration, to the governor and the appropriate standing committees
2 of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

3 ~~(8) For the purposes of this section:~~

4 ~~(a) "Future voter program" refers to the information that may be~~
5 ~~collected by a number of processes about a future voter. Information~~
6 ~~that is otherwise disclosable under chapter 29A.08 RCW cannot be~~
7 ~~disclosed on the future voter until the person reaches age eighteen,~~
8 ~~except for the purpose of processing and delivering ballots.~~

9 ~~(b) "Sign up" means the act of providing information relevant to~~
10 ~~eventual official voter registration, prior to such time that he or~~
11 ~~she will be eighteen years of age by the next election.)~~

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) On the third Tuesday of September of each year, or the
15 following Tuesday if the third Tuesday of September falls on a major
16 religious holiday, each public high school shall observe "National
17 Voter Registration Day."

18 (2) Each year on "National Voter Registration Day," social
19 studies teachers must, as resources allow, coordinate a voter
20 registration event in each history or social studies class attended
21 by high school seniors and when possible high school students in
22 other grades. This event is part of the future voter program.
23 Teachers must make voter sign up and registration available to all
24 students.

25 (3) County auditors may, as resources allow, help coordinate
26 elements of the future voter program, and participate in voter
27 registration events for students on "National Voter Registration
28 Day."

29 (4) On each "National Voter Registration Day" all students 16
30 years of age or older will be given the opportunity to register to
31 vote or sign up to register to vote online in the classroom as part
32 of the future voter program. Paper registration forms must also be
33 made available in the classroom. Students who cannot use the online
34 registration must be provided a paper registration form. The event
35 must include adequate time for students to complete the registration
36 process in class.

37 (5) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation
38 with the secretary of state, must update and distribute youth voter
39 registration materials annually, by August 1st, for eligible students

1 to register to vote at school. Electronic notification of the
2 availability of the materials must be distributed to high school
3 principals and secondary social studies and history teachers.

4 (6) The superintendent of public instruction must consult with
5 the secretary of state to provide registration methods that enable
6 the electronic collection of information on the number of students
7 who registered to vote on "National Voter Registration Day," with the
8 goal of achieving at least 50,000 new voter registrations for high
9 school students annually.

10 (7) Each year the superintendent of public instruction must
11 report on yearly progress toward the goal established in subsection
12 (6) of this section, including the number of high school students
13 registered to vote by county and recommendations for increasing youth
14 voter registration, to the governor and the appropriate standing
15 committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

16 (8) For the purposes of this section:

17 (a) "Future voter program" refers to the information that may be
18 collected by a number of processes about a future voter. Information
19 about a future voter that is otherwise disclosable under chapter
20 29A.08 RCW is subject to RCW 29A.08.725.

21 (b) "Sign up" means the act of providing information relevant to
22 eventual official voter registration, prior to such time that the
23 student will be 18 years of age by the next election.

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