

By Senator Jones

40-885-01

See HB 673

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to voter registration; creating  
3           s. 97.0584, F.S.; requiring each school  
4           district to establish a voter registration  
5           program that offers eligible high school  
6           students in the district the opportunity to  
7           register to vote or to update a voter  
8           registration record at least once a year in the  
9           spring; providing that participation is  
10          mandatory for public high schools and voluntary  
11          for nonpublic high schools; providing  
12          requirements of the participating high schools,  
13          the school districts, and the supervisors of  
14          elections with respect to the program;  
15          specifying eligibility requirements; providing  
16          for use of county voting equipment in certain  
17          school elections; providing an effective date.

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19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21           Section 1. Section 97.0584, Florida Statutes, is  
22          created to read:  
23                   97.0584 Voter registration of high school students.--  
24                   (1)(a) Each school district in the state shall  
25                   establish a voter registration program that provides every  
26                   eligible student enrolled in a high school in the district the  
27                   opportunity to register to vote or to update a voter  
28                   registration record at least once each year in the spring as  
29                   provided in this section. Registration under this section  
30                   includes preregistration as authorized under s. 97.041(1)(b).

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1           **(b) Participation in the program is mandatory for all**  
2 **public high schools and voluntary for each nonpublic high**  
3 **school.**

4           **(2) The social sciences division of each school**  
5 **district shall administer the program for the district and**  
6 **shall coordinate the annual voter registration drive conducted**  
7 **in the participating high schools in the district to ensure**  
8 **compliance with this section.**

9           **(3)(a) Each participating high school in the district**  
10 **shall conduct a voter registration drive each spring pursuant**  
11 **to this section with the goal of registering a number of**  
12 **students equal to its base group. The base group for each**  
13 **school shall consist of those students who are enrolled in**  
14 **American Government or Economics classes, who are at least 17**  
15 **years of age as of April 10 of the year of the registration**  
16 **drive, and who meet the requirements to become a registered**  
17 **voter specified in s. 97.041. If the goal is not met with the**  
18 **base group, students who are enrolled in a social studies**  
19 **class other than American Government or Economics and who are**  
20 **otherwise eligible may participate. If the goal is still not**  
21 **met, students who are not enrolled in any social science class**  
22 **but who are otherwise eligible may participate.**

23           **(b) Each participating high school shall conduct a**  
24 **review of the voter registration applications filled out by**  
25 **students at the school to ensure compliance with the**  
26 **requirements for completeness specified in s. 97.053(5) and**  
27 **shall submit the completed voter registration applications to**  
28 **the school district for submission to the supervisor of**  
29 **elections.**

30           **(4) The supervisor of elections of the county shall**  
31 **provide the voter registration forms and other materials and**

1 support necessary to assist the school district in carrying  
2 out its responsibilities under this section.

3 (5) This section neither requires an eligible student  
4 to register nor prevents a school district from providing  
5 eligible students the opportunity to register at other times  
6 of the school year.

7 (6) As an adjunct to the program and to familiarize  
8 students with the voting system used in the county of their  
9 school district, each school district shall make arrangements  
10 with the supervisor of elections for use of the county's  
11 voting equipment in any election held in a high school in the  
12 district in which only students are candidates, provided there  
13 is no conflict with another scheduled election.

14 Section 2. Section 97.041, Florida Statutes, reads:

15 97.041 Qualifications to register or vote.--

16 (1)(a) A person may become a registered voter only if  
17 that person:

- 18 1. Is at least 18 years of age;
- 19 2. Is a citizen of the United States;
- 20 3. Is a legal resident of the State of Florida;
- 21 4. Is a legal resident of the county in which that  
22 person seeks to be registered; and
- 23 5. Registers pursuant to the Florida Election Code.

24 (b) A person who is otherwise qualified may  
25 preregister on or after that person's 17th birthday and may  
26 vote in any election occurring on or after that person's 18th  
27 birthday.

28 (2) The following persons, who might be otherwise  
29 qualified, are not entitled to register or vote:

30 (a) A person who has been adjudicated mentally  
31 incapacitated with respect to voting in this or any other

1 state and who has not had his or her right to vote restored  
2 pursuant to law.

3 (b) A person who has been convicted of any felony by  
4 any court of record and who has not had his or her right to  
5 vote restored pursuant to law.

6 (3) A person who is not registered may not vote.

7 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 97.053, Florida  
8 Statutes, reads:

9 97.053 Acceptance of voter registration  
10 applications.--

11 (5)(a) A voter registration application is complete if  
12 it contains:

13 1. The applicant's name.

14 2. The applicant's legal residence address.

15 3. The applicant's date of birth.

16 4. An indication that the applicant is a citizen of  
17 the United States.

18 5. The last four digits of the applicant's social  
19 security number.

20 6. An indication that the applicant has not been  
21 convicted of a felony or that, if convicted, has had his or  
22 her civil rights restored.

23 7. An indication that the applicant has not been  
24 adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or  
25 that, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote  
26 restored.

27 8. Signature of the applicant swearing or affirming  
28 under the penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011  
29 that the information contained in the registration application  
30 is true and subscribing to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI  
31 of the State Constitution and s. 97.051.

1 (b) An applicant who fails to designate party  
2 affiliation must be registered without party affiliation. The  
3 supervisor must notify the voter by mail that the voter has  
4 been registered without party affiliation and that the voter  
5 may change party affiliation as provided in s. 97.1031.

6 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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9 HOUSE SUMMARY

10 Requires each school district to establish a voter  
11 registration program that offers eligible high school  
12 students in the district the opportunity to register to  
13 vote or to update a voter registration record at least  
14 once a year in the spring. Provides that participation  
15 is mandatory for public high schools and voluntary for  
16 nonpublic high schools. Provides requirements of the  
17 participating high schools, the school districts, and the  
18 supervisors of elections with respect to the program.  
19 Specifies eligibility requirements. Provides for use of  
20 county voting equipment in certain school elections. See  
21 bill for details.  
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