

By Senator Meek

36-1144-02

See HB

1                                   A bill to be entitled

2           An act relating to voter registration; creating

3           s. 97.0584, F.S.; requiring certain school

4           districts 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 in the

11          district and voluntary for nonpublic high

12          schools in the district; providing requirements

13          of the participating high schools, school

14          districts, and supervisors of elections with

15          respect to the program; specifying eligibility

16          requirements; providing for use of county

17          voting equipment in certain school elections;

18          providing an effective date.

19

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

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22           Section 1. Section 97.0584, Florida Statutes, is

23 created to read:

24           97.0584 High school voter registration program.--

25           (1)(a) Each school district in a county in which the

26 office of supervisor of elections is filled by appointment

27 rather than by election shall establish a voter registration

28 program that provides every eligible student enrolled in a

29 high school in the district the opportunity to register to

30 vote or to update a voter registration record at least once

31 each year in the spring as provided in this section.

1 Registration under this section includes preregistration as  
2 authorized under s. 97.041(1)(b).

3 (b) Participation in the program is mandatory for all  
4 public high schools in the district and voluntary for each  
5 nonpublic high school in the district.

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

11 (3)(a) Each participating high school in a school  
12 district subject to this section shall conduct a voter  
13 registration drive each spring pursuant to this section with  
14 the goal of registering a number of students equal to its base  
15 group. The base group for each school shall consist of those  
16 students who are enrolled in American Government or Economics  
17 classes, who are at least 17 years of age as of April 10 of  
18 the year of the registration drive, and who meet the  
19 requirements to become a registered voter specified in s.  
20 97.041.

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

28 (4) The supervisor of elections of the county shall  
29 provide the voter registration forms and other materials and  
30 support necessary to assist the school district in carrying  
31 out its responsibilities under this section.

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

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

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

13           97.041 Qualifications to register or vote.--

14           (1)(a) A person may become a registered voter only if  
15 that person:

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

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

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

28           (a) A person who has been adjudicated mentally  
29 incapacitated with respect to voting in this or any other  
30 state and who has not had his or her right to vote restored  
31 pursuant to law.

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

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

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

7 97.053 Acceptance of voter registration  
8 applications.--

9 (5)(a) A voter registration application is complete if  
10 it contains:

11 1. The applicant's name.

12 2. The applicant's legal residence address.

13 3. The applicant's date of birth.

14 4. An indication that the applicant is a citizen of  
15 the United States.

16 5. The last four digits of the applicant's social  
17 security number.

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

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

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

30 (b) An applicant who fails to designate party  
31 affiliation must be registered without party affiliation. The

1 supervisor must notify the voter by mail that the voter has  
2 been registered without party affiliation and that the voter  
3 may change party affiliation as provided in s. 97.1031.

4 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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7 HOUSE SUMMARY

8 Requires each school district in a county in which the  
9 office of supervisor of elections is filled by  
10 appointment rather than by election 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 in the district and  
16 voluntary for nonpublic high schools in the district.  
17 Provides requirements of the participating high schools,  
18 school districts, and supervisors of elections with  
19 respect to the program. Specifies eligibility  
20 requirements. Provides for use of county voting  
21 equipment in certain school elections. See bill for  
22 details.  
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