



HB 1667

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to voter registration; creating s.
3 97.0584, F.S.; requiring certain school districts to
4 establish a voter registration program that offers
5 eligible high school students in the district the
6 opportunity to register to vote or to update a voter
7 registration record at least once a year; providing that
8 participation is mandatory for public high schools in the
9 district and voluntary for nonpublic high schools in the
10 district; providing requirements of the participating high
11 schools, school districts, and supervisors of elections
12 with respect to the program; specifying eligibility
13 requirements; providing for use of county voting equipment
14 in certain school elections; reenacting ss. 97.041,
15 97.053, F.S.; providing an effective date.

16
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19 Section 1. Section 97.0584, Florida Statutes, is created
20 to read:

21 97.0584 High school voter registration program.--

22 (1)(a) The school district in each county in which the
23 office of supervisor of elections is filled by appointment
24 rather than by election shall establish a voter registration
25 program that provides every eligible student enrolled in a high
26 school in the district the opportunity to register to vote or to
27 update a voter registration record at least once each year as
28 provided in this section. Registration under this section
29 includes preregistration as authorized under s. 97.041(1)(b).



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30 (b) Participation in the program is mandatory for all
31 public high schools in the district and voluntary for each
32 nonpublic high school in the district.

33 (2) The social sciences division of each school district
34 subject to this section shall administer the program for the
35 district and shall coordinate the annual voter registration
36 drive conducted in the participating high schools in the
37 district to ensure compliance with this section.

38 (3)(a) Each participating high school in a school district
39 subject to this section shall conduct a voter registration drive
40 each year pursuant to this section with the goal of registering
41 a number of students equal to its base group. The base group
42 for each school consists of those students who are enrolled in
43 American Government or Economics classes, who are at least 17
44 years of age as of April 10 of the year of the registration
45 drive, and who meet the requirements to become a registered
46 voter specified in s. 97.041.

47 (b) Each participating high school in a school district
48 subject to this section shall conduct a review of the voter
49 registration applications filled out by students at the school
50 to ensure compliance with the requirements for completeness
51 specified in s. 97.053(5) and shall submit the completed voter
52 registration applications to the school district for submission
53 to the supervisor of elections.

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

58 (5) This section does not require an eligible student to
59 register and does not prevent a school district subject to this



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60 section from providing eligible students the opportunity to
61 register at other times of the school year.

62 (6) As an adjunct to the program and to familiarize
63 students with the voting system used in their county, each
64 school district subject to this section shall make arrangements
65 with the supervisor of elections for use of the county's voting
66 equipment in any election held in a high school in the district
67 in which only students are candidates, if there is no conflict
68 with another scheduled election as determined by the supervisor
69 of elections.

70 Section 2. Section 97.041, Florida Statutes, is reenacted
71 to read:

72 97.041 Qualifications to register or vote.--

73 (1)(a) A person may become a registered voter only if that
74 person:

- 75 1. Is at least 18 years of age;
- 76 2. Is a citizen of the United States;
- 77 3. Is a legal resident of the State of Florida;
- 78 4. Is a legal resident of the county in which that person
79 seeks to be registered; and
- 80 5. Registers pursuant to the Florida Election Code.

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

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

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



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

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

94 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 97.053, Florida
95 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

96 97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.--

97 (5)(a) A voter registration application is complete if it
98 contains:

99 1. The applicant's name.

100 2. The applicant's legal residence address.

101 3. The applicant's date of birth.

102 4. An indication that the applicant is a citizen of the
103 United States.

104 5. The last four digits of the applicant's social security
105 number.

106 6. An indication that the applicant has not been convicted
107 of a felony or that, if convicted, has had his or her civil
108 rights restored.

109 7. An indication that the applicant has not been
110 adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or
111 that, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote
112 restored.

113 8. Signature of the applicant swearing or affirming under
114 the penalty for false swearing pursuant to s. 104.011 that the
115 information contained in the registration application is true
116 and subscribing to the oath required by s. 3, Art. VI of the
117 State Constitution and s. 97.051.

118 (b) An applicant who fails to designate party affiliation
119 must be registered without party affiliation. The supervisor



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120 must notify the voter by mail that the voter has been registered
121 without party affiliation and that the voter may change party
122 affiliation as provided in s. 97.1031.

123 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.