

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 421

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE MARKOSEK

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1 Amend Bill, page 2, line 38, by inserting after "ELECTORS"
2 and for Future Voters Program

3 Amend Bill, page 80, line 23, by striking out "AN ARTICLE"
4 and inserting
5 articles

6 Amend Bill, page 92, by inserting between lines 8 and 9

7 ARTICLE XIII-E

8 FUTURE VOTERS PROGRAM

9 Section 1301-E. Scope.

10 This article relates to the Future Voters Program.

11 Section 1302-E. Legislative finding and declaration.

12 (a) Finding.--The General Assembly is committed to promoting
13 and fostering civic participation and granting equal access to
14 voter registration for all voters. The General Assembly
15 recognizes the importance of promoting and fostering lifelong
16 civic participation and finds that:

17 (1) Many emerging adults are denied access to the most
18 popular form of voter registration, motor voter. If an
19 individual obtains a driver's license at 16 or 17 years of
20 age, the individual may not understand the importance of the
21 right to vote and may fail to register to vote when the
22 individual reaches 18 years of age.

23 (2) A statistical analysis of all registered voters in
24 this Commonwealth revealed that in 2018, only 8.1% of
25 registrants were 18 to 24 years of age. Denial of motor voter
26 to so many emerging adults may contribute to lower voter
27 registration levels in the youngest voter age groups.
28 However, some studies show that emerging and young adults who
29 vote are likely to continue to do so.

30 (3) The representational disparities in voter
31 registration rates and voting within the emerging and young
32 adult electorate will improve by enacting election policies
33 that engage all emerging and young adults in this
34 Commonwealth.

35 (b) Declaration.--The General Assembly declares that this

1 article which allows eligible youths at least 16 years of age to
2 preregister to vote is intended to increase voter turnout in
3 emerging and young adults.

4 Section 1303-E. Definitions.

5 The following words and phrases when used in this article
6 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
7 context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "County commission." A registration commission established
9 under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1203 (relating to commissions).

10 "Eligible student." An individual enrolled in a school
11 entity in this Commonwealth who is 16 or 17 years of age.

12 "Future voter." An eligible student who, except for age,
13 meets all the qualifications for voting prescribed by the
14 Constitution of Pennsylvania and the laws of this Commonwealth
15 and who provides information related to voter registration to
16 the Department of State or the appropriate county commission to
17 facilitate preregistration to vote.

18 "Program." The Future Voter Program established under
19 section 1304-E.

20 "School entity." As defined in section 111.1 of the act of
21 March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code
22 of 1949.

23 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

24 "Sign up." A procedure that allows an eligible student to
25 register to vote prior to the time that the eligible student
26 will be 18 years of age by the next election.

27 "SURE system." The Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors as
28 defined in 25 Pa.C.S. § 1102 (relating to definitions).
29 Section 1304-E. Future Voter Program.

30 (a) Establishment.--The secretary, in consultation with the
31 Secretary of the Commonwealth, shall establish the Future Voter
32 Program for use by school entities to provide age-appropriate
33 instructions to students in grades one through twelve on topics
34 related to civics and civic participation, including educational
35 programming on the history of the Constitution of the United
36 States and the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

37 (b) Program components.--The following apply:

38 (1) On September 17 of each school year, or on the
39 preceding Friday when September 17 falls on a nonschool day,
40 "Constitution and Citizenship Day" shall be observed by each
41 school entity as part of the school entity's program. As part
42 of this observance, a school entity may designate particular
43 laws or may develop school-entity specific programming
44 related to civics and civic participation for special
45 observance.

46 (2) During the observance of "Constitution and
47 Citizenship Day" in accordance with paragraph (1), each
48 school entity shall, as resources permit, coordinate a voter
49 registration event in each history or social studies class
50 scheduled for eligible students. The voter registration event
51 shall:

- 1 (i) Be a component of each school entity's program.
2 (ii) Make voter sign-up or voter registration
3 available to all eligible students.
4 (iii) Provide all students who will be 18 years of
5 age or older by the time of the next general election the
6 opportunity to register to vote online in the classroom.
7 (iv) Make voter registration applications available
8 in the classroom. Eligible students who do not possess a
9 driver's license or State identification card shall be
10 provided a voter registration application. This
11 subparagraph shall not be construed to prevent or
12 prohibit eligible students who hold a driver's license or
13 State identification card from requesting and receiving a
14 voter registration application.
15 (v) Include adequate time for eligible students to
16 complete the voter registration process in class.
17 (vi) Allow students who are 16 or 17 years of age to
18 sign up to register to vote, including by mail. Except as
19 provided in subsection (d), the name of a student who
20 signs up to register to vote under this subparagraph may
21 not be added to the SURE system until the student reaches
22 18 years of age.

23 (c) Duties of secretary.--The secretary, in consultation
24 with the Secretary of State or the county commissions, shall:

25 (1) Distribute voter registration materials to school
26 entities for use by eligible students to register to vote at
27 school on "Constitution and Citizenship Day" or on any other
28 school day that may be designated by a school entity.

29 (2) Notify each school entity of the availability of
30 voter registration materials by electronic mail or in any
31 other appropriate manner.

32 (3) Consult with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to
33 provide registration methods that enable the electronic
34 collection of information on the number of eligible students
35 who registered to vote on "Constitution and Citizenship Day."

36 (d) Duties of Secretary of the Commonwealth.--The Secretary
37 of the Commonwealth shall, in consultation with the county
38 commissions, do the following:

39 (1) Provide for the registration of students who have
40 attained 16 years of age and who hold a valid Pennsylvania
41 driver's license or identification card as part of the
42 program by submitting a voter registration application
43 electronically on the Department of State's publicly
44 accessible Internet website. The Secretary of the
45 Commonwealth may accept the last four digits of a student's
46 Social Security number if the student does not hold a valid
47 driver's license or identification card. Each student must
48 attest to the truth of the information provided on the
49 application by affirmatively accepting the information as
50 true.

51 (2) For each electronic registration application

1 received under paragraph (1), obtain a digital copy of the
2 applicant's driver's license or State identification card
3 signature from the Department of Transportation.

4 (3) Provide for the maintenance and storage of pending
5 registration records for all future voters who are not 18
6 years of age in a database engineered to ensure that no
7 pending registration record will be recorded in or otherwise
8 transferred to the SURE system until the future voter is 18
9 years of age and is no longer in pending status.

10 (4) Assign a unique identifier to future voters who are
11 under 18 years of age.

12 (5) Permit each county commission to have access to the
13 future voter database and to allow a county commission to
14 send notices to future voters related to registration status
15 or any other information related to voter registration.

16 (e) Disclosure not authorized.--Notwithstanding any other
17 provision of law, information that is otherwise disclosable
18 under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the
19 Right-to-Know Law, shall not be deemed public information and,
20 except for the purpose of processing and delivering ballots,
21 shall not be disclosed on any eligible student until the
22 eligible student reaches 18 years of age.

23 (f) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
24 construed to prohibit a school entity from designating any other
25 school day or time to facilitate the intent and purpose of this
26 article.

27 Section 1305-E. Voter registration applications.

28 (a) Completeness.--

29 (1) A voter registration application received by the
30 Department of State or a county commission through the
31 program shall be considered complete only if the application
32 contains the information required under 25 Pa.C.S. § 1301
33 (relating to qualifications to register), provided that an
34 eligible student who registers to vote through the program
35 shall not be considered to be registered unless the eligible
36 student will be 18 years of age by the date of the next
37 election. An eligible student shall:

38 (i) Attest to the truth of the information provided
39 on the application by affirmatively accepting the
40 information as true.

41 (ii) If signing up to register by mail, provide a
42 signature for voter registration purposes.

43 (iii) Affirmatively acknowledge that the student
44 will not vote until the student reaches 18 years of age.

45 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or
46 regulation, an eligible student who signs up to register to
47 vote through the program shall be classified as pending,
48 unless the eligible student will be 18 years of age by the
49 date of the next election.

50 (b) Incomplete application.--If an application is not
51 complete, the county commission shall promptly mail a

1 verification notice to the eligible student. The verification
2 notice shall require the eligible student to provide the missing
3 information.

4 (c) Removal from pending status.--When a future voter
5 reaches 18 years of age, the future voter's registration
6 application shall be removed from pending status.

7 (d) Disclosure not authorized.--The following apply:

8 (1) The personal identifiable information of eligible
9 students under 18 years of age who sign up or register to
10 vote through the program shall be exempt from public
11 inspection, copying and disclosure under the act of February
12 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law,
13 except for the purpose of processing and delivering ballots.

14 (2) A county commission shall not include the personal
15 identifiable information contained in an eligible student's
16 voter registration application on the master list of
17 prospective jurors prepared by the county under 42 Pa.C.S. §
18 4521 (relating to selection of prospective jurors) and no
19 eligible student shall be qualified to serve as a juror under
20 42 Pa.C.S. § 4521 until the eligible student reaches 18 years
21 of age.

22 Section 1306-E. Regulations.

23 The secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the
24 Commonwealth, shall promulgate and adopt guidelines to
25 administer the provisions of this article.