

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Nolan, Read, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Jenson
Prepared By:	Jerry Watson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/27, 6/3, 6/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school districts that include public high school to adopt plans to encourage students to register to vote and to vote in elections. Requires plans to include, at minimum, a link on each public high school's webpage to the Secretary of State's electronic voter registration website and provision of materials from the Secretary of State related to voting and registration to students at each high school. Directs the State Board of Education to incorporate voter registration skills into the Essential Learning Skills.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of encouraging voting at an early age to establish the habit of voting
- Civic obligation to participate in elections
- Provision of elections and voting materials to high schools
- Rulemaking by State Board of Education

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes requirement that school districts involve student governments in development of plans. Changes purpose of plan from increasing student voter registration to encouraging students to register and to vote. Replaces plan requirements with requirement that plans include, at minimum, a link on each public high school's home webpage to the Secretary of State's electronic voter registration website and that materials from the Secretary of State related to voting and registering to vote be readily available to students at each public high school. Directs the State Board of Education to incorporate voter registration skills into the Essential Learning Skills.

BACKGROUND: Lawmakers in several states are considering measures to further increase youth voter participation on high school campuses. In New Jersey's Assembly, Bill 2752 would require public and private schools to provide voter registration materials for graduating high school students upon issuance of their diploma. The bill, introduced in 2008, was adopted by the Assembly and was reported out favorably by the Senate Education Committee. In Kentucky, House Bill 155 would require voter registration information to be provided to students in the twelfth grade. House Bill 155 was passed by the House on a 98-0 vote on February 24, 2009, and is currently in the Senate Rules Committee. Proponents of efforts to increase voter registration and voting among high school students assert that citizens who become politically engaged at a young age become lifelong voters, bringing more people into the voting process at an earlier age and maintaining that involvement throughout their adult lives.

6/8/2009 8:17:00 AM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.