VOTING/REGISTRATION: Requires public school governing authorities to provide high school seniors the opportunity to register to vote

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:2119 and 3996(B)(67), relative to voter registration; to require public school governing authorities to provide an opportunity for certain high school seniors to register to vote; to provide relative to methods for such registration; to prohibit the involvement of certain organizations; to provide for policies; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:2119 and 3996(B)(67) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2119. Voter registration; high schools

A. Each public school governing authority shall provide an opportunity for each high school senior who is at least seventeen years old to register to vote by using a school computer to fill out an electronic voter registration application or by using the state mail voter registration application form.

B. No public school governing authority shall allow the involvement of any political or partisan group or organization in the registration process.

C. Each public school governing authority shall adopt policies for the implementation of this Section and shall review the policies, at minimum, every five years for the purpose of considering any needed revisions or updates.
D. Each public school governing authority may follow guidance provided by the secretary of state in implementing the provisions of this Section.

§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

(67) Voter registration, R.S. 17:2119.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 423 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session Mincey

Abstract: Provides for certain high school seniors to have the opportunity to participate in voter registration at school.

Proposed law:
(1) Requires public school governing authorities to provide high school seniors who are at least 17 years old with the opportunity to register to vote by using a school computer to fill out an electronic voter registration application or by using the state mail voter registration application form.

(2) Prohibits the involvement of any political or partisan group or organization in the registration process.

(3) Requires each public school governing authority to adopt policies for the implementation of proposed law and review them at least every five years.

(4) Authorizes each public school governing authority to follow the secretary of state's guidance in proposed law implementation.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
Proposed law is applicable to all public schools, including charter schools.

(Adds R.S. 17:2119 and 3996(B)(67))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Limit registration opportunity to seniors who are 17 or older.

2. Authorize school governing authorities to follow the secretary of state's guidance in implementing proposed law.

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