

**Introduced by Senator Cedillo**

February 10, 2005

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An act to ~~amend Section 2146 of the Elections~~ *add Chapter 4.3 (commencing with Section 66230) to Part 40 of the Education Code, relating to voter registration.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 191, as amended, Cedillo. Voter registration: *public institutions of higher education.*

~~Existing~~

*(1) Existing law requires the Secretary of State to annually provide secondary education and specified ~~post-secondary~~ postsecondary education campuses with a number of voter registration forms consistent with the number of students enrolled at each school. The Secretary of State is required to provide written notice with each form instructing students regarding voter eligibility and where to file the completed forms.*

*Existing law, the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of California's 3 public segments of higher education and their respective campuses. These 3 public segments are the University of California, which is administered by the Regents of the University of California; the California State University, which is administered by the Trustees of the California State University; and the California Community Colleges, which is administered by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. Provisions of the Donahoe Higher Education Act apply to the University of California only to the extent that the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate resolution, act to make them applicable.*

This bill would ~~make technical, nonsubstantive changes to existing law~~ require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and would strongly urge the Regents of the University of California, to adopt rules and regulations relating to the campus housing programs of their respective segments to provide all students who live on public university and college campuses in the state with voter registration cards, as defined, containing a notice that voter registration is entirely voluntary.

The bill would require the trustees and the board of governors, and strongly urge the regents, to establish a procedure pursuant to which the voter registration card provided under the bill would be collected, along with other paperwork required to be submitted by the student, in the process of applying for, and being assigned to, campus housing, and would require the completed cards to be submitted to the appropriate county elections official.

To the extent that this bill would create new duties for community college districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~yes. State-mandated local program: ~~no~~yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. ~~Section 2146 of the Elections Code is amended~~
- 2 ~~to read:~~
- 3 SECTION 1. Chapter 4.3 (commencing with Section 66230)
- 4 is added to Part 40 of the Education Code, to read:

CHAPTER 4.3. VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

66230. It is the intent of the Legislature that the public colleges and universities of this state foster an educational environment that promotes civic responsibility.

66230.5. The Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges shall, and the Regents of the University of California are strongly urged to, adopt rules and regulations relating to the campus housing programs of their respective segments in order to accomplish all of the following:

(a) Provide to all students who live on public university and college campuses in this state with a voter registration card, as that term is used in Section 2146 of the Elections Code. Each student would receive the voter registration card at the location at which a key and local address has been assigned to that student.

(b) Establish a procedure pursuant to which the voter registration card provided under this section would be collected, along with other paperwork required to be submitted by the student, in the process of applying for, and being assigned to, campus housing.

(c) Include, as part of the text of the voter registration card provided under this section, a notice that indicates to the student that registering to vote is entirely voluntary and that the student's voter registration status will have no effect on the student's campus housing status.

(d) Submit completed voter registration cards to the appropriate county elections official.

(e) Increase the availability of the election information provided by the Secretary of State's office and other state and local agencies in areas where students commonly congregate.

SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

~~2146. (a) The Secretary of State shall annually provide every high school, community college, California State University, and University of California campus with voter registration forms.~~

1 ~~The number of forms shall be consistent with the number of~~  
2 ~~students enrolled at each school.~~

3 ~~(b) The Secretary of State shall provide a written notice with~~  
4 ~~each registration form describing eligibility requirements and~~  
5 ~~informing each student that he or she may return the completed~~  
6 ~~form in person or by mail to the elections official of the county in~~  
7 ~~which the student resides.~~

8 ~~(e) It is the intent of the Legislature that every high school and~~  
9 ~~college student receive a voter registration card with his or her~~  
10 ~~diploma. It is also the intent of the Legislature that every school~~  
11 ~~do all in its power to ensure that students are provided the~~  
12 ~~opportunity and means to register to vote. This may include~~  
13 ~~providing voter registration forms at the start of the school year,~~  
14 ~~including voter registration forms with orientation materials,~~  
15 ~~placing voter registration forms at central locations, and~~  
16 ~~including voter registration forms with graduation materials.~~