

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1817

Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez

February 18, 2014

An act to add Section 49041 to the Education Code, and to amend Sections 2103 and 2109 of the Elections Code, relating to voter registration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1817, as introduced, Gomez. Voter registration: deputy registrars of voters: high school pupils.

Under existing law, a person who is a registered voter qualifies for appointment as a deputy registrar of voters. Existing law states that it is the intent of the Legislature that county elections officials, in order to promote and encourage voter registration, shall enlist the support and cooperation of interested citizens and organizations, and shall deputize as registrars qualified citizens. Existing law permits a person deputized as a registrar by the county elections official to register voters. Existing law permits the governing board of a county, city, city and county, district, or other public agency to authorize and assign an officer or employee to become a deputy registrar of voters and register qualified citizens on any premise or facility owned or controlled by the agency.

This bill would permit the governing board of a school district to authorize a high school pupil 16 years of age or older to become a deputy registrar of voters and to registrar to vote qualified pupils on his or her high school campus.

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

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 49041 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

3 49041. The governing board of a school district may authorize
4 a high school pupil 16 years of age or older to become a deputy
5 registrar of voters, and to register to vote qualified pupils on his
6 or her high school campus, pursuant to Section 2103 of the
7 Elections Code.

8 SEC. 2. Section 2103 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

9 2103. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the election
10 board of each county, in order to promote and encourage voter
11 registrations, shall establish a sufficient number of registration
12 places throughout the county, and outside the county courthouse,
13 for the convenience of persons desiring to register, to the end that
14 registration may be maintained at a high level.

15 (b) It is also the intent of the Legislature that county elections
16 officials, in order to promote and encourage voter registrations,
17 shall enlist the support and cooperation of interested citizens and
18 organizations, and shall deputize as registrars qualified citizens in
19 such a way as to reach most effectively every resident of the
20 county. The persons so deputized shall be permitted to register
21 voters anywhere within the county, including at the places of
22 residence of the persons to be registered, and the county elections
23 official shall not deny deputy registrars the right to register voters
24 anywhere in the county.

25 (c) It is also the intent of the Legislature that
26 non-English-speaking citizens, like all other citizens, should be
27 encouraged to vote. Therefore, appropriate efforts should be made
28 to minimize obstacles to registration by citizens who lack sufficient
29 skill in English to register without assistance.

30 (d) ~~Where~~ *If* the county elections official finds that citizens
31 described in subdivision (c) approximate ~~3~~ *three* percent or more
32 of the voting age residents of a precinct, or ~~in the event that if~~
33 interested citizens or organizations provide information ~~which that~~
34 the county elections official believes indicates a need for
35 registration assistance for qualified citizens described in
36 subdivision (c), the county elections official shall make reasonable
37 efforts to recruit deputy registrars who are fluent in a language
38 used by citizens described in subdivision (c) and in English. That

1 recruitment shall be conducted through the cooperation of
 2 interested citizens and organizations and through voluntarily
 3 donated public service notices in the media, including newspapers,
 4 radio, and television, particularly those media that serve the
 5 non-English-speaking citizens described in subdivision (c). Deputy
 6 registrars so appointed shall facilitate registration in the particular
 7 precincts concerned and shall have the right to register voters
 8 anywhere in the county.

9 (e) In furtherance of the purposes of this section, the governing
 10 board of ~~any~~ a county, city, city and county, district, or other public
 11 agency may authorize and assign any of its officers or employees
 12 to become deputy registrars of voters and to register qualified
 13 citizens on any premises and facilities owned or controlled by
 14 those public agencies during the regular working hours of the
 15 officers or employees. With the exception of firefighters, any
 16 compensation to which the officer or employee may be entitled in
 17 payment for the services of the officer or employee as a deputy
 18 registrar may be paid by the authority that appointed the officer
 19 or employee as a deputy registrar to the public agency that regularly
 20 employs the officer or employee.

21 (f) *In furtherance of the purposes of this section, the governing*
 22 *board of a school district may authorize a high school pupil 16*
 23 *years of age or older to become a deputy registrar of voters and*
 24 *to registrar to vote qualified pupils on his or her high school*
 25 *campus.*

26 (f)

27 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature that no limitation be
 28 imposed on the number of persons appointed to act as deputy
 29 registrars of voters.

30 (g)

31 (h) It is the intent of the Legislature that county elections
 32 officials be permitted to distribute affidavits of registration and
 33 voter registration cards, in all languages required by Section 203
 34 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1973aa-1a) or Section 4(f)(4) (42 U.S.C. Sec.
 35 1973b(f)(4)) of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, by using
 36 the county's Internet Web site.

37 SEC. 3. Section 2109 of the Elections Code is amended to read:

38 2109. ~~Any~~ A person who is a registered voter qualifies for
 39 appointment as a deputy registrar of voters *if he or she is a*

- 1 *registered voter or is a person described in subdivision (f) of*
- 2 *Section 2103.*

O