

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 183**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Coto**

January 24, 2007

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An act to add Section ~~51229~~ 49041 to the Education Code, relating to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 183, as amended, Coto. Pupils: ~~high school graduation~~ schools: voter registration.

*(1) Existing law requires the Secretary of State to annually provide voter registration forms and information to students in all high schools, community colleges, and campuses of the California State University and University of California. Existing law requires that the number of forms be consistent with the number of students enrolled at each school who are of voting age or will be of voting age by the end of the year and requires the Secretary of State to provide additional forms to any school, free of charge, if so requested by a school. Existing law also declares the Legislature's intent that every school do all in its power to ensure that students are provided the opportunity and means to register to vote. The last 2 full weeks in April and the last 2 full weeks in September are required to be known as "high school voter weeks," during which time deputy registrars of voters are required to be allowed to register students and school personnel on any high school campus.*

*This bill would require, commencing with the 2009–10 school year, and for each school year thereafter, each school district with at least one high school to report the voter registration efforts described in the above provisions of existing law and to publish those efforts prominently*

*and annually on the Internet Web sites of its high schools and in parent newsletters or other communication vehicles used within the school community. The bill would specify the data to be reported and published. By imposing new duties on school districts, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.*

~~Under existing law, except as specified, a pupil may not receive a diploma of graduation from high school if that pupil, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed specified academic requirements. Existing law requires each pupil completing grade 12 to successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school.~~

~~This bill would require, commencing with the 2009–10 school year, and for each school year thereafter, that each pupil register to vote as a condition of graduation from high school if the pupil otherwise meets the requirements to vote, subject to the exceptions below. The bill would make the pupil responsible for registering to vote and require the pupil to submit proof of registration to the school registrar or other appropriate school official. The bill would require the school district to verify that a pupil has complied with these provisions before the pupil is allowed to graduate. The bill would authorize a pupil to choose not to register to vote by submitting that preference in writing to the school registrar or other appropriate school official. A pupil who does not meet the criteria to register to vote would be exempted from this requirement. A school district would be required to notify high school pupils of this graduation requirement, as provided. By imposing new duties on school districts, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.~~

~~The~~

~~(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: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.~~

*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. (a) Commencing with the 2009–10 school year, and  
4 for each school years thereafter, each school district with at least  
5 one high school shall report the voter registration efforts described  
6 in Section 2146 of the Elections Code and Section 49040 and  
7 publish those efforts prominently and annually on the Internet Web  
8 site of each of its high schools and in parent newsletters or other  
9 communication vehicles used within the school community.

10    (b) The data to be reported and published pursuant to  
11 subdivision (a) shall include, but not be limited to, all of the  
12 following:

13    (1) The number of voter registration forms and notices  
14 describing eligibility requirements distributed within each high  
15 school.

16    (2) A list of the efforts made by each high school to provide  
17 eligible pupils the opportunity and means to register to vote.

18    (3) The number of pupils who actually registered to vote at each  
19 high school by deputy registrars of voters during “high school  
20 voter weeks.”

21     ~~SECTION 1. Section 51229 is added to the Education Code,~~  
22 ~~to read:~~

23     ~~51229. (a) Commencing with the 2009–10 school year, and~~  
24 ~~for each school year thereafter, except as otherwise provided by~~  
25 ~~this section each pupil shall register to vote as a condition of~~  
26 ~~graduation from high school if the pupil otherwise meets the~~  
27 ~~requirements to vote. The pupil shall be responsible for registering~~  
28 ~~to vote and shall submit proof of registration to the school registrar~~  
29 ~~or other appropriate school official.~~

30     ~~(b) The school district shall verify that a pupil has complied~~  
31 ~~with this section before the pupil is allowed to graduate from high~~  
32 ~~school.~~

33     ~~(c) The school district shall keep confidential each pupil’s voter~~  
34 ~~registration records and related information.~~

35     ~~(d) A pupil subject to subdivision (a) may choose not to register~~  
36 ~~to vote by submitting that preference in writing to the school~~  
37 ~~registrar or other appropriate school official.~~

1 ~~(e) A pupil who does not meet the criteria to register to vote,~~  
2 ~~including, but not limited to, not yet having reached the appropriate~~  
3 ~~age, is not subject to the requirements of subdivision (a).~~

4 ~~(f) The school district shall provide notice of the requirements~~  
5 ~~of this section to the pupils in its high schools upon the enactment~~  
6 ~~of this section and annually thereafter, and to each pupil at the~~  
7 ~~time of his or her enrollment in a high school of the district.~~

8 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines  
9 that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement  
10 to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
11 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
12 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.