

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 391
Version: As introduced

DATE: February 25, 2015

Authors: Urdahl and others

Subject: Voter pre-registration at age 16

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Overview

This bill authorizes an individual to register to vote at age 16, if the individual meets all other eligibility requirements for voting, except age. The bill also restricts public access to voter registration lists to only those registrants who are 18 years of age or older.

The bill does not change the existing age eligibility standard (18 years or older) for actually casting a ballot.

Note: The proposed A2 author's amendment would modify the registration standard to allow registration at age 17, rather than at age 16.

Section

- 1 Registration.** Authorizes an individual who is under age 18, but who is at least 16 years of age and otherwise eligible, to register to vote.
Registration for those under 18 would follow the existing registration process provided in law, including the requirement that the individual complete a voter registration application.
- 2 Prohibition; penalty.** Provides an exception to the existing criminal penalty for registering to vote when an individual is not eligible, to reflect the allowance for individuals to register prior to meeting the age eligibility requirements.
- 3 Prior to election day.** Adds a conforming cross-reference to the statute governing the voter registration process, to reflect the allowance for individuals to register prior to meeting the age eligibility requirements.

Section

This section also clarifies that registration does not entitle an individual to cast a ballot unless the individual meets all eligibility requirements for voting—including age.

- 4** **Form.** Updates the required text on the voter registration form, to reflect the allowance for individuals to register prior to meeting the age eligibility requirements.
- 5** **Public disclosure lists.** Limits public access to voter registration lists to only those registrants who are at least 18 years of age.