

**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 to the Education Code, relating to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 183, as introduced, Coto. Pupils: high school graduation: voter registration.

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 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 51229 is added to the Education Code,  
2 to read:

3 51229. (a) Commencing with the 2009–10 school year, and  
4 for each school year thereafter, except as otherwise provided by  
5 this section each pupil shall register to vote as a condition of  
6 graduation from high school if the pupil otherwise meets the  
7 requirements to vote. The pupil shall be responsible for registering  
8 to vote and shall submit proof of registration to the school registrar  
9 or other appropriate school official.

10 (b) The school district shall verify that a pupil has complied  
11 with this section before the pupil is allowed to graduate from high  
12 school.

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

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

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

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

25 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines  
26 that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement

1 to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
2 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
3 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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