



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5113

Introduced 2/8/2024, by Rep. Daniel Didech

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

5 ILCS 490/197 new
10 ILCS 5/1A-60
105 ILCS 5/26-1

from Ch. 122, par. 26-1

Amends the State Commemorative Dates Act. Provides that the fourth Tuesday in September shall be known as High School Voter Registration Day. Amends the Elections Code. In provisions concerning high school voter registration, provides that the one page document explaining the process to register to vote that every high school must provide to students shall be disseminated each year prior to the fourth Tuesday in September. Provides that the one page document prepared by the State Board of Elections must include a direct link to the State's online voter registration portal. Provides that the one page document shall also include sample ballot instructions and instructions for voting in the next election. Provides that a high school may adopt reasonable regulations restricting nonpartisan voter registration activities only if nonpartisan voter registration activities present a disruption to the school day or normal school operations. Provides that the board of each school district operating a high school shall allow each student who is at least 18 years of age, or 17 years of age on or before the date of the next primary election and turns 18 on or before the date of the general or consolidated election, and meets all other requirements of voter registration to register to vote during school hours on the fourth Tuesday in September of each year, or on the next school day if school is not in session on that the fourth Tuesday in September. Amends the School Code to make a conforming change.

LRB103 33373 RJT 63185 b

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The State Commemorative Dates Act is amended by
5 adding Section 197 as follows:

6 (5 ILCS 490/197 new)

7 Sec. 197. High School Voter Registration Day. The fourth
8 Tuesday in September shall be known as High School Voter
9 Registration Day to be observed as provided in Section 1A-60
10 of the Election Code.

11 Section 10. The Election Code is amended by changing
12 Section 1A-60 as follows:

13 (10 ILCS 5/1A-60)

14 Sec. 1A-60. High school voter registration.

15 (a) The State Board of Elections shall prepare a one page
16 document explaining the process to register to vote to be
17 disseminated to high school age students. Every high school
18 must provide students with that document, which may be
19 disseminated electronically, and shall be disseminated each
20 year prior to the fourth Tuesday in September. The document
21 must include a direct link to the State's online voter

1 registration portal. The document shall also include sample
2 ballot instructions and instructions for voting in the next
3 election.

4 (b) No high school may prohibit nonpartisan voter
5 registration activities on its premises. A high school may
6 adopt reasonable regulations restricting nonpartisan voter
7 registration activities if nonpartisan voter registration
8 activities present a disruption to the school day or normal
9 school operations.

10 (c) The board of each school district operating a high
11 school shall allow each student who is at least 18 years of
12 age, or 17 years of age on or before the date of the next
13 primary election and turns 18 on or before the date of the
14 general or consolidated election, and meets all other
15 requirements of voter registration to register to vote during
16 school hours on the fourth Tuesday in September of each year or
17 on the next available school day if school is not in session on
18 the fourth Tuesday in September.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-15, eff. 6-17-21.)

20 Section 15. The School Code is amended by changing Section
21 26-1 as follows:

22 (105 ILCS 5/26-1) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-1)

23 Sec. 26-1. Compulsory school age; exemptions. Whoever has
24 custody or control of any child (i) between the ages of 7 and

1 17 years (unless the child has already graduated from high
2 school) for school years before the 2014-2015 school year or
3 (ii) between the ages of 6 (on or before September 1) and 17
4 years (unless the child has already graduated from high
5 school) beginning with the 2014-2015 school year shall cause
6 such child to attend some public school in the district
7 wherein the child resides the entire time it is in session
8 during the regular school term, except as provided in Section
9 10-19.1, and during a required summer school program
10 established under Section 10-22.33B; provided, that the
11 following children shall not be required to attend the public
12 schools:

13 1. Any child attending a private or a parochial school
14 where children are taught the branches of education taught
15 to children of corresponding age and grade in the public
16 schools, and where the instruction of the child in the
17 branches of education is in the English language;

18 2. Any child who is physically or mentally unable to
19 attend school, such disability being certified to the
20 county or district truant officer by a competent physician
21 licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in
22 all its branches, a chiropractic physician licensed under
23 the Medical Practice Act of 1987, a licensed advanced
24 practice registered nurse, a licensed physician assistant,
25 or a Christian Science practitioner residing in this State
26 and listed in the Christian Science Journal; or who is

1 excused for temporary absence for cause by the principal
2 or teacher of the school which the child attends, with
3 absence for cause by illness being required to include the
4 mental or behavioral health of the child for up to 5 days
5 for which the child need not provide a medical note, in
6 which case the child shall be given the opportunity to
7 make up any school work missed during the mental or
8 behavioral health absence and, after the second mental
9 health day used, may be referred to the appropriate school
10 support personnel; the exemptions in this paragraph (2) do
11 not apply to any female who is pregnant or the mother of
12 one or more children, except where a female is unable to
13 attend school due to a complication arising from her
14 pregnancy and the existence of such complication is
15 certified to the county or district truant officer by a
16 competent physician;

17 3. Any child necessarily and lawfully employed
18 according to the provisions of the law regulating child
19 labor may be excused from attendance at school by the
20 county superintendent of schools or the superintendent of
21 the public school which the child should be attending, on
22 certification of the facts by and the recommendation of
23 the school board of the public school district in which
24 the child resides. In districts having part-time
25 continuation schools, children so excused shall attend
26 such schools at least 8 hours each week;

1 4. Any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in
2 attendance at confirmation classes;

3 5. Any child absent from a public school on a
4 particular day or days or at a particular time of day for
5 the reason that he is unable to attend classes or to
6 participate in any examination, study, or work
7 requirements on a particular day or days or at a
8 particular time of day because of religious reasons,
9 including the observance of a religious holiday or
10 participation in religious instruction, or because the
11 tenets of his religion forbid secular activity on a
12 particular day or days or at a particular time of day. A
13 school board may require the parent or guardian of a child
14 who is to be excused from attending school because of
15 religious reasons to give notice, not exceeding 5 days, of
16 the child's absence to the school principal or other
17 school personnel. Any child excused from attending school
18 under this paragraph 5 shall not be required to submit a
19 written excuse for such absence after returning to school.
20 A district superintendent shall develop and distribute to
21 schools appropriate procedures regarding a student's
22 absence for religious reasons, how schools are notified of
23 a student's impending absence for religious reasons, and
24 the requirements of Section 26-2b of this Code;

25 6. Any child 16 years of age or older who (i) submits
26 to a school district evidence of necessary and lawful

1 employment pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Section and
2 (ii) is enrolled in a graduation incentives program
3 pursuant to Section 26-16 of this Code or an alternative
4 learning opportunities program established pursuant to
5 Article 13B of this Code;

6 7. A child in any of grades 6 through 12 absent from a
7 public school on a particular day or days or at a
8 particular time of day for the purpose of sounding "Taps"
9 at a military honors funeral held in this State for a
10 deceased veteran. In order to be excused under this
11 paragraph 7, the student shall notify the school's
12 administration at least 2 days prior to the date of the
13 absence and shall provide the school's administration with
14 the date, time, and location of the military honors
15 funeral. The school's administration may waive this 2-day
16 notification requirement if the student did not receive at
17 least 2 days advance notice, but the student shall notify
18 the school's administration as soon as possible of the
19 absence. A student whose absence is excused under this
20 paragraph 7 shall be counted as if the student attended
21 school for purposes of calculating the average daily
22 attendance of students in the school district. A student
23 whose absence is excused under this paragraph 7 must be
24 allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed
25 during the absence. If the student satisfactorily
26 completes the school work, the day of absence shall be

1 counted as a day of compulsory attendance and he or she may
2 not be penalized for that absence; ~~and~~

3 8. Any child absent from a public school on a
4 particular day or days or at a particular time of day for
5 the reason that his or her parent or legal guardian is an
6 active duty member of the uniformed services and has been
7 called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately
8 returned from deployment to a combat zone or
9 combat-support postings. Such a student shall be granted 5
10 days of excused absences in any school year and, at the
11 discretion of the school board, additional excused
12 absences to visit the student's parent or legal guardian
13 relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or
14 legal guardian. In the case of excused absences pursuant
15 to this paragraph 8, the student and parent or legal
16 guardian shall be responsible for obtaining assignments
17 from the student's teacher prior to any period of excused
18 absence and for ensuring that such assignments are
19 completed by the student prior to his or her return to
20 school from such period of excused absence; ~~and~~.

21 9. Any child attending a high school during school
22 hours on the fourth Tuesday in September of each year, or
23 on the next school day if school is not in session on the
24 fourth Tuesday in September, to register to vote.

25 Any child from a public middle school or high school,
26 subject to guidelines established by the State Board of

1 Education, shall be permitted by a school board one school
2 day-long excused absence per school year for the child who is
3 absent from school to engage in a civic event. The school board
4 may require that the student provide reasonable advance notice
5 of the intended absence to the appropriate school
6 administrator and require that the student provide
7 documentation of participation in a civic event to the
8 appropriate school administrator.

9 (Source: P.A. 102-266, eff. 1-1-22; 102-321, eff. 1-1-22;
10 102-406, eff. 8-19-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-981, eff.
11 1-1-23.)