

1 *HOUSE* BILL NO. *606*
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Steve Coakley* *Larry H. Givens* *Wayne*
 3 *Van Valkenburg* *T. Bond*

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH
 5 VOTING PROGRAM TO EDUCATE MONTANA'S YOUTH IN THE DEMOCRATIC
 6 PROCESS; PROVIDING THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE
 7 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION DEVELOP AND COORDINATE
 8 THE PROGRAM; AND ALLOWING STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING
 9 SCHOOLS TO CAST MOCK BALLOTS AT DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES
 10 DURING ELECTIONS IF THE STUDENTS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT
 11 OR ELIGIBLE VOTER."

12
 13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

14 NEW SECTION. **Section 1.** Short title. [This act] may be
 15 cited as the "Youth Voting Act".

16 NEW SECTION. **Section 2.** Purpose and intent. The intent
 17 of the legislature is to establish a nonpartisan youth
 18 voting program that will:

- 19 (1) provide the youth of Montana with practical
- 20 experience in the democratic process;
- 21 (2) increase the likelihood that Montana's youth will
- 22 participate in the process as adult voters and encourage the
- 23 participation of more parents in elections;
- 24 (3) not benefit any elected official, candidate for
- 25 elective office, political party, campaign for or against

1 any ballot issue, or any measure attempting to qualify for
 2 placement on a ballot; and

3 (4) be entirely funded through private donations.

4 NEW SECTION. **Section 3.** Youth voting program
 5 established -- program coordination -- school participation.

6 (1) There is a youth voting program for minors to provide
 7 young Montanans direct experience in the voting process.

8 (2) The secretary of state, in consultation with the
 9 superintendent of public instruction, shall solicit schools
 10 throughout the state to participate in the youth voting
 11 program. The secretary of state and the superintendent of
 12 public instruction shall confer with the chief election
 13 officers and county superintendents of schools and, from
 14 among interested schools, shall designate which schools may
 15 participate in the program. A designated school may, at any
 16 time, decline to participate by notifying the secretary of
 17 state in writing.

18 NEW SECTION. **Section 4.** Curriculum development. (1)

19 The secretary of state and the superintendent of public
 20 instruction shall compile a curriculum and establish a
 21 process whereby:

- 22 (a) students are instructed on the electoral process,
- 23 the importance of voting, and how to mark and cast a ballot;
- 24 (b) students are educated about current issues in a
- 25 manner appropriate for each grade level involved;



1 (c) students cast facsimile or mock ballots while
2 accompanying their parents to polling places during regular
3 elections; and

4 (d) ballots cast by students at elections are counted
5 and the results are made available to all participating
6 schools.

7 (2) The curriculum must be presented to participating
8 schools in a nonpartisan, nonbiased, and informative manner.

9 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Responsibilities of
10 participating schools. Participating schools shall, in a
11 timely manner, provide to students and their parents or
12 guardians instruction and guidance on how to participate in
13 the program, youth voter registration procedures and
14 deadlines, a list of candidates and issues, and polling and
15 balloting procedures.

16 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Polling place procedures. (1)
17 The secretary of state and the superintendent of public
18 instruction shall work with county election officials to
19 provide that:

20 (a) facsimile or mock ballots are distributed to
21 polling places in counties with participating schools;

22 (b) participating students accompanied by a parent or
23 eligible voter are allowed to cast ballots in the youth
24 election; and

25 (c) student ballots are counted and the results are

1 announced to the participating schools.

2 (2) The provisions of this section must be carried out
3 in a manner that will not interfere with the normal voting
4 process or established polling place procedures.

5 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Funding. (1) Public money may
6 not be used to support or fund the youth voting program
7 established in [sections 1 through 8].

8 (2) A nonprofit corporation may be formed subject to
9 the provisions of Title 35, chapter 2, to solicit donations
10 from private sources. Money solicited under this subsection
11 must be used only for the youth voting program.

12 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Reports. (1) Each biennium,
13 the secretary of state shall provide, upon request, a report
14 to the legislature outlining the program's effectiveness in
15 achieving its objectives.

16 (2) Participating schools and agencies shall provide to
17 the secretary of state information regarding the youth
18 voting program for the secretary of state's report to the
19 legislature.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB606, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act establishing a youth voting program to educate Montana's youth in the democratic process; providing that the Secretary of State and the Superintendent of Public Instruction develop and coordinate the program; and allowing students from participating schools to cast mock ballots at designated polling places during elections if the students are accompanied by a parent or eligible voter.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Program will be operated and supported by a non-profit corporation supported by private donations.
2. Current staff levels are sufficient for program implementation.
3. This bill requires private funding.
4. No state dollars will be used.
5. Private donations and vendors of election equipment will fund the costs of this program, creating no additional cost to local governments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None, private funds will be used.

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:


None is anticipated in that private funds will be used.

LONG-RANGE EFFECTS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:


It is hoped that increased voter participation and registration will occur as a result of this program and Montana's Secretary of State will win his Maine lobster dinner.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

This bill appears to allow for disqualification of interested schools. That would appear to be in conflict with the establishment and purpose of this act.



ROD SUNDSTED, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
Office of Budget and Program Planning



MARK O'KEEFE, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE
Fiscal Note for HB0606, as introduced. **HB 606**

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
ON STATE ADMINISTRATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 606

INTRODUCED BY O'KEEFE, COCCHIARELLA, GRINDE,
MAZUREK, VAN VALKENBURG, T. BECK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH VOTING PROGRAM TO EDUCATE MONTANA'S YOUTH IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS; PROVIDING THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION DEVELOP AND COORDINATE THE PROGRAM; AND ALLOWING STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS TO CAST MOCK BALLOTS AT DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES DURING ELECTIONS IF THE STUDENTS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR ELIGIBLE VOTER."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [This act] may be cited as the "Youth Voting Act".

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose and intent. The intent of the legislature is to establish a nonpartisan youth voting program that will:

(1) provide the youth of Montana with practical experience in the democratic process;

(2) increase the likelihood that Montana's youth will participate in the process as adult voters and encourage the participation of more parents in elections;

(3) not benefit any elected official, candidate for

elective office, political party, campaign for or against any ballot issue, or any measure attempting to qualify for placement on a ballot; and

(4) be entirely funded through private donations.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Youth voting program established -- program coordination -- school participation.

(1) There is a youth voting program for minors to provide young Montanans direct experience in the voting process.

(2) The secretary of state, in consultation with the superintendent of public instruction, shall solicit COUNTY ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS AND schools throughout the state to participate in the youth voting program. The secretary of state and the superintendent of public instruction shall confer with the ~~chief-election-officers~~ PARTICIPATING COUNTY ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS and county superintendents of schools and, from among interested schools, shall ~~designate which-schools-may-participate-in-the-program~~ FACILITATE THE PARTICIPATION OF AS MANY SCHOOLS IN THE PROGRAM AS AVAILABLE FUNDS AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW. A designated school may, at any time, decline to participate by notifying the secretary of state in writing.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. CURRICULUM PROGRAM development. (1) The secretary of state and the superintendent of public instruction shall compile a curriculum PROGRAM and establish a process whereby:

SECOND READING
HB 606

1 (a) students are instructed on the electoral process,
2 the importance of voting, and how to mark and cast a ballot;

3 (b) students are educated about current issues in a
4 manner appropriate for each grade level involved;

5 (c) students cast facsimile or mock ballots while
6 accompanying their parents to polling places during regular
7 elections; and

8 (d) ballots cast by students at elections are counted
9 and the results are made available to all participating
10 schools.

11 (2) The curriculum PROGRAM must be presented to
12 participating schools in a nonpartisan, nonbiased, and
13 informative manner.

14 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Responsibilities of
15 participating schools. Participating schools shall, in a
16 timely manner, provide to students and their parents or
17 guardians instruction and guidance on how to participate in
18 the program, youth voter registration procedures and
19 deadlines, a list of candidates and issues, and polling and
20 balloting procedures.

21 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Polling place procedures. (1)
22 The secretary of state and the superintendent of public
23 instruction shall work with county election officials to
24 provide that:

25 (a) facsimile or mock ballots are distributed to

1 polling places in counties with participating schools;

2 (b) participating students accompanied by a parent or
3 eligible voter are allowed to cast ballots in the youth
4 election; and

5 (c) student ballots are counted and the results are
6 announced to the participating schools.

7 (2) The provisions of this section must be carried out
8 in a manner that will not interfere with the normal voting
9 process or established polling place procedures.

10 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Funding. (1) Public money may
11 not be used to support or fund the youth voting program
12 established in [sections 1 through 8].

13 (2) A nonprofit corporation may be formed subject to
14 the provisions of Title 35, chapter 2, to solicit donations
15 from private sources. Money solicited under this subsection
16 must be used only for the youth voting program.

17 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Reports. (1) Each biennium,
18 the secretary of state shall provide, upon request, a report
19 to the legislature outlining the program's effectiveness in
20 achieving its objectives.

21 (2) Participating schools and agencies shall provide to
22 the secretary of state information regarding the youth
23 voting program for the secretary of state's report to the
24 legislature.

-End-

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 606

2 INTRODUCED BY O'KEEFE, COCCHIARELLA, GRINDE,
3 MAZUREK, VAN VALKENBURG, T. BECK
4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH
6 VOTING PROGRAM TO EDUCATE MONTANA'S YOUTH IN THE DEMOCRATIC
7 PROCESS; PROVIDING THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE
8 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION DEVELOP AND COORDINATE
9 THE PROGRAM; AND ALLOWING STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING
10 SCHOOLS TO CAST MOCK BALLOTS AT DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES
11 DURING ELECTIONS IF THE STUDENTS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT
12 OR ELIGIBLE VOTER."
13

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

15 NEW SECTION. **Section 1.** Short title. [This act] may be
16 cited as the "Youth Voting Act".

17 NEW SECTION. **Section 2.** Purpose and intent. The intent
18 of the legislature is to establish a nonpartisan youth
19 voting program that will:

20 (1) provide the youth of Montana with practical
21 experience in the democratic process;

22 (2) increase the likelihood that Montana's youth will
23 participate in the process as adult voters and encourage the
24 participation of more parents in elections;

25 (3) not benefit any elected official, candidate for

1 elective office, political party, campaign for or against
2 any ballot issue, or any measure attempting to qualify for
3 placement on a ballot; and

4 (4) be entirely funded through private donations.

5 NEW SECTION. **Section 3.** Youth voting program
6 established -- program coordination -- school participation.

7 (1) There is a youth voting program for minors to provide
8 young Montanans direct experience in the voting process.

9 (2) The secretary of state, in consultation with the
10 superintendent of public instruction, shall solicit COUNTY
11 ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS AND schools throughout the state to
12 participate in the youth voting program. The secretary of
13 state and the superintendent of public instruction shall
14 confer with the ~~chief-election-officers~~ PARTICIPATING COUNTY
15 ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS and county superintendents of
16 schools and, from among interested schools, shall designate
17 ~~which-schools-may-participate-in-the-program~~ FACILITATE THE
18 PARTICIPATION OF AS MANY SCHOOLS IN THE PROGRAM AS AVAILABLE
19 FUNDS AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW. A designated school
20 may, at any time, decline to participate by notifying the
21 secretary of state in writing.

22 NEW SECTION. **Section 4.** CURRICIUM PROGRAM
23 development. (1) The secretary of state and the
24 superintendent of public instruction shall compile a
25 curriculum PROGRAM and establish a process whereby:

THIRD READING

1 (a) students are instructed on the electoral process,
2 the importance of voting, and how to mark and cast a ballot;

3 (b) students are educated about current issues in a
4 manner appropriate for each grade level involved;

5 (c) students cast facsimile or mock ballots while
6 accompanying their parents to polling places during regular
7 elections; and

8 (d) ballots cast by students at elections are counted
9 and the results are made available to all participating
10 schools.

11 (2) The curriculum PROGRAM must be presented to
12 participating schools in a nonpartisan, nonbiased, and
13 informative manner.

14 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Responsibilities of
15 participating schools. Participating schools shall, in a
16 timely manner, provide to students and their parents or
17 guardians instruction and guidance on how to participate in
18 the program, youth voter registration procedures and
19 deadlines, a list of candidates and issues, and polling and
20 balloting procedures.

21 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Polling place procedures. (1)
22 The secretary of state and the superintendent of public
23 instruction shall work with county election officials to
24 provide that:

25 (a) facsimile or mock ballots are distributed to

1 polling places in counties with participating schools;

2 (b) participating students accompanied by a parent or
3 eligible voter are allowed to cast ballots in the youth
4 election; and

5 (c) student ballots are counted and the results are
6 announced to the participating schools.

7 (2) The provisions of this section must be carried out
8 in a manner that will not interfere with the normal voting
9 process or established polling place procedures.

10 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Funding. (1) Public money may
11 not be used to support or fund the youth voting program
12 established in [sections 1 through 8].

13 (2) A nonprofit corporation may be formed subject to
14 the provisions of Title 35, chapter 2, to solicit donations
15 from private sources. Money solicited under this subsection
16 must be used only for the youth voting program.

17 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Reports. (1) Each biennium,
18 the secretary of state shall provide, upon request, a report
19 to the legislature outlining the program's effectiveness in
20 achieving its objectives.

21 (2) Participating schools and agencies shall provide to
22 the secretary of state information regarding the youth
23 voting program for the secretary of state's report to the
24 legislature.

-End-

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 606

2 INTRODUCED BY O'KEEFE, COCCHIARELLA, GRINDE,

3 MAZUREK, VAN VALKENBURG, T. BECK

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH
6 VOTING PROGRAM TO EDUCATE MONTANA'S YOUTH IN THE DEMOCRATIC
7 PROCESS; PROVIDING THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE
8 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION DEVELOP AND COORDINATE
9 THE PROGRAM; AND ALLOWING STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING
10 SCHOOLS TO CAST MOCK BALLOTS AT DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES
11 DURING ELECTIONS IF THE STUDENTS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT
12 OR ELIGIBLE VOTER."

13
14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:15 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [This act] may be
16 cited as the "Youth Voting Act".17 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Purpose and intent. The intent
18 of the legislature is to establish a nonpartisan youth
19 voting program that will:20 (1) provide the youth of Montana with practical
21 experience in the democratic process;22 (2) increase the likelihood that Montana's youth will
23 participate in the process as adult voters and encourage the
24 participation of more parents in elections;

25 (3) not benefit any elected official, candidate for

1 elective office, political party, campaign for or against
2 any ballot issue, or any measure attempting to qualify for
3 placement on a ballot; and

4 (4) be entirely funded through private donations.

5 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Youth voting program
6 established -- program coordination -- school participation.
7 (1) There is a youth voting program for minors to provide
8 young Montanans direct experience in the voting process.

9 (2) The secretary of state, in consultation with the
10 superintendent of public instruction, shall solicit COUNTY
11 ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS AND schools throughout the state to
12 participate in the youth voting program. The secretary of
13 state and the superintendent of public instruction shall
14 confer with the ~~chief-election-officers~~ PARTICIPATING COUNTY
15 ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS and county superintendents of
16 schools and, from among interested schools, shall designate
17 ~~which-schools-may-participate-in-the-program~~ FACILITATE THE
18 PARTICIPATION OF AS MANY SCHOOLS IN THE PROGRAM AS AVAILABLE
19 FUNDS AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW. A designated school
20 may, at any time, decline to participate by notifying the
21 secretary of state in writing.

22 NEW SECTION. Section 4. CURRICULUM PROGRAM
23 development. (1) The secretary of state and the
24 superintendent of public instruction shall compile a
25 curriculum PROGRAM and establish a process whereby:

REFERENCE BILL
HB 606

1 (a) students are instructed on the electoral process,
2 the importance of voting, and how to mark and cast a ballot;

3 (b) students are educated about current issues in a
4 manner appropriate for each grade level involved;

5 (c) students cast facsimile or mock ballots while
6 accompanying their parents to polling places during regular
7 elections; and

8 (d) ballots cast by students at elections are counted
9 and the results are made available to all participating
10 schools.

11 (2) The curriculum PROGRAM must be presented to
12 participating schools in a nonpartisan, nonbiased, and
13 informative manner.

14 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Responsibilities of
15 participating schools. Participating schools shall, in a
16 timely manner, provide to students and their parents or
17 guardians instruction and guidance on how to participate in
18 the program, youth voter registration procedures and
19 deadlines, a list of candidates and issues, and polling and
20 balloting procedures.

21 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Polling place procedures. (1)
22 The secretary of state and the superintendent of public
23 instruction shall work with county election officials to
24 provide that:

25 (a) facsimile or mock ballots are distributed to

1 polling places in counties with participating schools;

2 (b) participating students accompanied by a parent or
3 eligible voter are allowed to cast ballots in the youth
4 election; and

5 (c) student ballots are counted and the results are
6 announced to the participating schools.

7 (2) The provisions of this section must be carried out
8 in a manner that will not interfere with the normal voting
9 process or established polling place procedures.

10 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Funding. (1) Public money may
11 not be used to support or fund the youth voting program
12 established in [sections 1 through 8].

13 (2) A nonprofit corporation may be formed subject to
14 the provisions of Title 35, chapter 2, to solicit donations
15 from private sources. Money solicited under this subsection
16 must be used only for the youth voting program.

17 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Reports. (1) Each biennium,
18 the secretary of state shall provide, upon request, a report
19 to the legislature outlining the program's effectiveness in
20 achieving its objectives.

21 (2) Participating schools and agencies shall provide to
22 the secretary of state information regarding the youth
23 voting program for the secretary of state's report to the
24 legislature.

-End-