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HOUSE BILL NO. 3052

Offered January 15, 2007

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-115.01, relating to elections; officers of election; high school interns as officers.

Patron—Alexander

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-115.01 as follows:****§ 24.2-115.01. Officers of election; high school interns.**

Each electoral board at its regular meeting in the first week of February may appoint high school students to serve as officer of election interns, hereafter "interns." Their terms of office shall begin on March 1 following their appointment and continue, at the discretion of the electoral board, for a term not to exceed three years or until their successors are appointed. More than one-half of the total number of officers of election and interns appointed for a precinct shall be officers of election appointed pursuant to § 24.2-115.

Each intern shall be in good academic standing as a public, private, or home-schooled student, a resident of the Commonwealth, and 16 years of age or older at the time of his appointment. An intern shall not be required to be a qualified voter. In appointing the interns, representation shall be given to each of the two political parties having the highest and next highest number of votes in the Commonwealth for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election. The representation of the two parties shall be equal at each precinct having an equal number of interns and shall vary by no more than one at each precinct having an odd number of interns. If possible, interns shall be appointed from lists of nominations filed by the political parties entitled to appointments. The party shall file its nominations with the secretary of the electoral board at least 10 days before February 1 each year.

Each intern who is appointed shall file with the electoral board, at least 10 days before February 1 of the year he is appointed, one permission statement from his parent or legal guardian and one permission statement from the appropriate school authority approving his service as an intern. For the guidance of the electoral boards in implementing the provisions of this section, the State Board of Elections shall prepare definitions of "good academic standing" and "appropriate school authority" after consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Each intern shall perform all the duties of an officer of election, take the oath required by § 24.2-120, and receive the same compensation and training as an officer of election. However, an intern shall not be eligible to serve as the chief officer or assistant officer for a precinct.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall instruct schools to provide appropriate permissions and excused class absences so that interns may serve on election days and attend any required training programs.

No child of any registrar, electoral board member, or person prohibited by § 24.2-119 from serving as an officer of election shall be eligible to serve as an intern.

INTRODUCED

HB3052