

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: SB510

Bill Subtitle: TO ALLOW A SIXTEEN (16) YEAR OLD TO PREREGISTER TO VOTE; AND TO AMEND AMENDMENT 51 OF THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION.

Basic Change : Sponsor: Sen. Elliott and Rep. Flowers

This bill amends the Arkansas Constitution to allow a 16 year old to preregister to vote. The bill further provides that the preregistered person's registration will become automatically active when the preregistered person reaches 18 years of age. A person preregistering to vote shall make a self-affirmation in writing with their registration application that states they are a citizen of the United States and on the date of the first election after they are 18 years old, they have resided in Arkansas and their precinct for 30 days. They also affirm in this written statement that the present address listed in the registration is their sole legal place of residence and that no other place is their legal residence.

Revenue Impact :

There is no revenue impact if this bill is passed.

Taxpayer Impact :

The Revenue Offices will need to accommodate persons 16 to 18 year olds who wish to register to vote. These persons will be asked if they would like to preregister to vote when they have other business at the Revenue Office. The person will be provided an opportunity to complete the written self-affirmation and application required by this bill.

Resources Required :

Programming and training of all Revenue Office personnel will be required if this bill is passed. The programming and implementation will require coordination between DFA and the Secretary of State.

Time Required :

No additional time is required to implement this bill.

Procedural Changes :

Procedures will need to be developed and personnel trained to implement this bill.

Legal Analysis :

SB510 seeks to amend Amendment 51, § 9 of the Constitution of the State of Arkansas of 1874 ("Arkansas Constitution") by adding a subsection that would allow a person who has reached sixteen (16) years of age to preregister to vote when the person will not reach the age of eighteen (18) by the date of the next election. The registration of a person who has preregistered to vote will automatically become active upon reaching eighteen (18) years of age. The amendment would enable a preregistered person to update his or her preregistration using the same means as those utilized by a person who is registered to vote. Additionally, the amendment would require that a written self-affirmation be submitted with the person's registration application.

Am. 51, §19 of the Arkansas Constitution authorizes the General Assembly to amend Amendment 51 by a 2/3 of both houses of the General Assembly.