AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION IN POLLING PLACES AND EXTENDING THE HOURS OF ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.

SUMMARY

Generally, this bill (1) requires that municipalities complete and process Election Day Registration (EDR) applications in each polling place, rather than in a single location, and (2) authorizes individuals who are in line for EDR by 8:00 p.m. to vote, not only register, after they complete the voter registration process and are admitted as electors.

Under the EDR law, an individual may register and vote if he or she is eligible to vote in this state and is (1) not already an elector or (2) registered in one municipality, but wants to change his or her registration because he or she resides in another municipality. EDR is available during regular state and municipal elections.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes, including extending EDR procedures from one designated location to each polling place.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

EDR LOCATIONS

The bill requires that municipalities complete and process EDR applications in each polling place, rather than in a single location designated by registrars of voters, as under current law. It authorizes registrars to (1) appoint one or more election officials to serve in each polling place in order to complete and process EDR applications and (2) delegate any of their responsibilities to such officials. Current law gives registrars this authority with respect to designated EDR locations.
By law, registrars of voters must check applicants’ eligibility before admitting them as electors by accessing the statewide centralized voter registration system (CVRS). Currently, the designated EDR location must be one where registrars have access to the CVRS. The bill instead requires CVRS access at each polling place.

**EDR HOURS**

Under the bill, individuals who are in line for EDR by 8:00 p.m. may vote, not only register, after they complete the voter registration process and are admitted as electors. Currently, EDR applicants may not vote if they are not admitted as electors by the 8:00 p.m. deadline. By law, individuals admitted as electors before the day of an election may vote if they are in the line at their polling place by 8:00 p.m.

The bill requires moderators to designate a municipal police officer or election official to mark the end of the EDR line, starting at 8:00 p.m., in order to stop individuals from entering the line after that time. Existing law establishes the same requirement for non-EDR lines at polling places.

**BACKGROUND**

*Related Bill*

SHB 7160, reported favorably by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, (1) authorizes registrars of voters to apply to the secretary of state to designate additional EDR locations and (2) also authorizes individuals who are in line for EDR by 8:00 p.m. to vote, not only register, after they complete the voter registration process and are admitted as electors.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10  Nay 5  (03/29/2019)