

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5226

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations, March 1, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to canvassing of mail-only-ballot special elections.

**Brief Description:** Extending time to certify spring special elections by mail-only-ballot.

**Sponsors:** Senators C. Anderson, McCaslin, Heavey and Kohl.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations: 2/2/95, 3/1/95 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Sheldon, Vice Chair; Drew, Hale, Heavey and Winsley.

**Staff:** Rod McAulay (786-7754)

**Background:** The county election canvassing board must convene and certify election results no later than the tenth day after a special election or primary and no later than the fifteenth day after a general election. There is concern that the time limit is too short for the efficient and economical canvassing of the vote in spring special elections conducted by mail-ballot-only.

**Summary of Bill:** The county election canvassing board must convene and certify election results no later than the twentieth day after a spring special election conducted by mail-ballot-only.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Large counties need extra time to certify special elections because of the volume. To meet the 10-day requirement requires double shifts and overtime pay.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** John Charles, King County Department of Records and Elections (pro); Bob Terwilliger, Snohomish County Auditor (pro).