

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5267

As Passed Senate, March 14, 1995

Title: An act relating to write-in candidates.

Brief Description: Establishing filing fees and tabulation procedures for write-in candidates.

Sponsors: Senators Sheldon, Haugen and Wood.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations: 2/2/95, 3/1/95 [DP].
Passed Senate, 3/14/95, 48-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

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

Staff: Rod McAulay (786-7754)

Background: Any person who desires to be a write-in candidate and have such votes counted at a primary or election must file a declaration of candidacy no later than the day before the primary or election. There is no statutory requirement that the person pay a filing fee at the time of filing a declaration of candidacy as a write-in candidate.

Regardless of whether a write-in candidate has filed a declaration of candidacy and regardless of whether there are enough votes to nominate a write-in candidate, votes for a write-in candidate must be tallied separately.

Summary of Bill: Any person who files a declaration of candidacy as a write-in candidate must pay a filing fee in the same manner required of other candidates filing for the office. Write-in votes cannot be tallied separately for a person who files a declaration of candidacy, unless the number of votes results in nomination.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: This bill will enable auditors to focus their resources toward serious candidates. Requiring a filing fee is a matter of equity.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Karen Flynn, Kitsap County Auditor (pro).

House Amendment(s): The amendment makes it clear that write-in votes need not be tallied individually if they would not alter the results of the election.