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ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1554

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, McLean, Miller, Tate, R. Fisher, Paris and Jacobsen. Read first time February 1, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to voter registration verification procedures; and  
2 amending RCW 29.10.180.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.10.180 and 1989 c 261 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) The county auditor may enter one or more contracts with the  
7 United States postal service, or its licensee, which permit the auditor  
8 to use postal service change-of-address information. If the auditor  
9 finds that information received under such a contract gives the  
10 appearance that a voter has changed his or her residence address, the  
11 auditor shall notify the voter concerning the requirements of state and  
12 federal laws governing voter registration and residence.

13 (2) Whenever any vote-by-mail ballot, notification to voters  
14 following reprecincting of the county, notification to voters of  
15 selection to serve on jury duty, notification under subsection (1) of

1 this section, or initial voter identification card is returned by the  
2 postal service as undeliverable, the county auditor shall, in every  
3 instance, inquire into the validity of the registration of that voter.

4 ~~((+2))~~ (3) The county auditor shall initiate his or her inquiry by  
5 sending, by first-class mail, a written notice to the challenged voter  
6 at the address indicated on the voter's permanent registration record  
7 and to any other address at which the county auditor could reasonably  
8 expect mail to be received by the voter. The county auditor shall not  
9 request any restriction on the forwarding of such notice by the postal  
10 service. The notice shall contain the nature of the inquiry and  
11 provide a suitable form for reply. The notice shall also contain a  
12 warning that the county auditor must receive a response within forty-  
13 five days from the date of mailing or the individual's voter  
14 registration will be canceled.

15 ~~((+3))~~ (4) The voter, in person or in writing, may state that the  
16 information on the permanent voter registration record is correct or  
17 may request a change in the address information on the permanent  
18 registration record no later than the forty-fifth day after the date of  
19 mailing the inquiry.

20 ~~((+4))~~ (5) Upon the timely receipt of a response signed by the  
21 voter, the county auditor shall consider the inquiry satisfied and will  
22 make any address corrections requested by the voter on the permanent  
23 registration record. The county auditor shall cancel the registration  
24 of a voter who fails to respond to the notice of inquiry within forty-  
25 five days after the date of mailing.

26 ~~((+5))~~ (6) The county auditor shall notify any voter whose  
27 registration has been canceled by sending, by first class mail, a  
28 written notice to the address indicated on the voter's permanent  
29 registration record and to any other address to which the original

1 inquiry was sent. Upon receipt of a satisfactory voter response, the  
2 auditor shall reinstate the voter.

3       (~~(6)~~) (7) A voter whose registration has been canceled under this  
4 section and who offers to vote at the next ensuing election shall be  
5 issued a questioned ballot. Upon receipt of such a questioned ballot  
6 the auditor shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the  
7 original cancellation. If he or she determines that the cancellation  
8 was in error, the voter's registration shall be immediately reinstated,  
9 and the voter's questioned ballot shall be counted. If the original  
10 cancellation was not in error, the voter shall be afforded the  
11 opportunity to reregister at his or her correct address, and the  
12 voter's questioned ballot shall not be counted.