

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5137

**AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
FEBRUARY 5, 1993**

Brief Description: Making the office of sheriff nonpartisan.

SPONSORS: Senators M. Rasmussen, Deccio, Erwin, Moyer, A. Smith, Haugen, Prince, Spanel, McCaslin, Winsley, von Reichbauer and Oke

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chairman; Drew, Vice Chairman; Oke, Owen, von Reichbauer, and Winsley.

Minority Report: Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Loveland.

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Hearing Dates: January 27, 1993; February 5, 1993

BACKGROUND:

Under current law all county offices, except judicial offices and those offices where a county home rule charter provides otherwise, are partisan offices.

SUMMARY:

The office of county sheriff is a nonpartisan office unless the position is declared to be partisan by a county's home rule charter. All elections for county sheriff are nonpartisan unless a county's home rule charter declares the position to be partisan.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested

Effective Date: July 1, 1994

TESTIMONY FOR:

Partisanship has no place in professional law enforcement.

TESTIMONY AGAINST: None

TESTIFIED: Bob McBride, Kittitas County Sheriff; Dan LaRoche, Douglas County Sheriff