

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SSB 5481**

**AS PASSED SENATE, MARCH 8, 1993**

**Brief Description:** Cancelling voter registration of felons.

**SPONSORS:** Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Roach, Quigley, Hargrove, Amondson, L. Smith, McCaslin and Oke)

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5481 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

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

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

**Hearing Dates:** February 17, 1993; February 18, 1993

**BACKGROUND:**

Article 6, Section 3 of the State Constitution provides that: "All persons convicted of infamous crime unless restored to their civil rights . . . are excluded from the elective franchise." The election code defines "infamous crime" as a crime punishable by death in the state penitentiary or imprisonment in a state correctional facility. An applicant to register to vote must make a sworn statement that he or she is not presently denied his or her civil rights as a result of being convicted of an infamous crime.

There is no established mechanism to notify county auditors when a registered voter is convicted of an infamous crime so that they might strike them from the rolls.

**SUMMARY:**

Within 14 days of the entry of a judgment of conviction of an individual for an infamous crime, the clerk of the court shall send a notice of the conviction to the county auditor in the county of the convict's residence. The auditor shall strike the name of the convict from the voter registration roll.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** none requested

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

This bill assures compliance with the Constitution. There is no mechanism in place to notify auditors when a person is convicted of a disqualifying crime.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Senator Roach, prime sponsor; Jeff Helston, Pierce County attorney