

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SSB 5819**

**AS PASSED SENATE, FEBRUARY 8, 1994**

**Brief Description:** Authorizing voting by mail for any primary or election for a two-year period.

**SPONSORS:** Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Vognild and Quigley)

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5819 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chairman; Drew, Vice Chairman; Loveland, McCaslin, Owen and Winsley.

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

**Hearing Dates:** February 25, 1993; March 3, 1993; January 18, 1994

**BACKGROUND:**

County auditors may conduct primaries or elections by mail in precincts with fewer than 200 registered voters. Any county, city, town or district requesting a nonpartisan special election not being held in conjunction with a state primary may request that the election be conducted by mail. The county auditor may honor or deny such a request.

When conducting a primary or election by mail in a precinct with fewer than 200 voters, ballot request forms are mailed to all voters in the precinct no later than 15 days prior to the primary or election. A mail ballot shall be issued to each voter who returns an application no later than the day of the primary or election.

When conducting a nonpartisan special election by mail, the ballots shall be mailed to the voters no later than 15 days prior to the election.

All mailings will include a preaddressed return envelope.

**SUMMARY:**

The county auditor may conduct elections by mail in any precinct, in any primary, special or general election during the two year period commencing with the effective date of this act.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** available

**TESTIMONY FOR:** None

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** No one