

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

BillNo. HB 1638

Permitabsenteeballotrequest/election/primary  
Brieftitle

PublicArg: 1/14/98

Rep.Kessle(Sec.ofStateReq.)  
Sponsor

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**BACKGROUND:**

A registered voter may request an absentee ballot for a single primary election or may become an ongoing absentee voter and receive an absentee ballot for all subsequent primaries and elections.

A request for an absentee ballot must be made no earlier than 45 days, nor later than the day before the primary election for which it is issued. However, a voter who is both confined to a hospital and who was admitted to the hospital five or fewer days before a primary election may apply by messenger for an absentee ballot on the day of the primary election. The application must include a signed statement by the hospital administrator or designee verifying the voter's date of admission and status as a patient on the day of the primary election.

**SUMMARY:**

A voter may apply for an absentee ballot on the day of the primary election.

A signed statement by a hospital administrator verifying a voter's date of admission and status as a patient is no longer required to be included with the special application for an absentee ballot that a voter confined to a hospital on the day of the primary election may submit by messenger to the county auditor.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Not requested.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bills passed.