

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

BilNo. HB 2513

Revising laws on candidate pamphlets  
Brief title

Hrg Date: 1/27/98

Reps. Keiser/D Schmidt  
Sponsor

Staff Contact: Steve Lundin  
Comm. on Govt. Admin.  
Phone: 786-7127

**BACKGROUND:**

The Secretary of State is required to prepare a state candidate pamphlet and voter pamphlet and distribute a copy of a pamphlet to each place of residence in the state. Whenever possible, a state candidate pamphlet is combined with a state voter pamphlet.

A state candidate pamphlet is prepared for each general election held in an even-numbered year that includes information on nominees for each federal and state office appearing on the ballot. This includes nominees for the following offices that are voted upon on both a state-wide and less than state-wide basis: President, United States senator, United States representative, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Commissioner of Public Lands, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Insurance Commissioner, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Justice of the Supreme Court, judge of the court of appeals and superior court judge.

A state candidate pamphlet is only prepared for a general election held in an odd-numbered year to fill a vacancy in a state-wide office. A state candidate pamphlet is not prepared for a general election in an odd-numbered year if only a state legislative Congressional vacancy is to be filled.

A voter pamphlet is prepared for the election when a state ballot measure is considered.

Counties first-class and code cities are authorized to prepare and distribute local voter pamphlets for any primary general election or special election and include information on local ballot measures and candidates or nominees for local office.

Continued

**SUMMARY:**

Requirements for publishing and distributing state candidates pamphlets are expanded.

A state voters pamphlet is required to be published and distributed for each general election in either an even-numbered or odd-numbered year whenever a state officer or federal officer is to be elected or a vacancy in such an office is to be filled. A candidates pamphlet that only includes nominees for the United States Congress or a state legislature need only be distributed to each individual place of residence in the applicable congressional district legislative district.

If sufficient time exists and sufficient money has been appropriated, the Secretary of State must publish and distribute candidates pamphlet for a primary to nominate persons for a federal or state officer to nominate persons to be elected to fill a vacancy in a federal or state office.

In lieu of publishing a state candidates pamphlet for only congressional legislative district-wide is for a primary or general election, the Secretary of State may contract with a county auditor to include information on persons running for those offices in a county voters pamphlet.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Not requested.

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