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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1395**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Government Administration (originally sponsored by Representatives D. Sommers, Sheldon, Gombosky, Dunn, Cairnes, Sterk, D. Schmidt, Mulliken, Boldt, Benson, McMorris, Murray, Tokuda, Scott and Regala)

Read first time 02/14/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to the filling of vacancies in legislative and  
2 partisan county offices; adding new sections to chapter 42.12 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to clarify and  
6 provide additional details on the procedure under Article II, section  
7 15 of the state Constitution for filling vacancies in legislative or  
8 partisan county offices.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.12 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 The three persons who are nominated to be appointed by a county  
12 legislative authority or authorities to fill a vacancy in a state  
13 legislative office or partisan county office may be named at any time  
14 after the legislator or partisan county office holder submits his or  
15 her letter of resignation to the proper authority under RCW 42.12.020,  
16 whether the resignation becomes effective immediately or at a specified  
17 date in the future.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 42.12 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        A precinct committee officer may vote on a nomination only if he or  
4 she was elected as a precinct committee officer or a letter of his or  
5 her appointment has been on file with the county auditor for at least  
6 thirty days.    However, a precinct committee officer who is eligible to  
7 vote on nominations may submit a letter to the county auditor  
8 authorizing another person who is a registered voter residing in the  
9 precinct to act as his or her substitute for purposes of voting on the  
10 nominations.

11       A precinct committee officer, or designated substitute, who arrives  
12 at the meeting place after the voting on a nomination has started may  
13 not vote on the nomination.

14       Each precinct committee officer, or designated substitute, who  
15 votes on such a nomination must sign an attendance form opposite his or  
16 her precinct name or number.    The registrar shall report to the  
17 chairperson the number of precinct committee officers or designated  
18 substitutes who have signed the attendance form before a vote may be  
19 taken on nominations.

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