

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bil Analysis

Bil No. HB 1133

Maintaining registrations

Brief title

Hearing Date: 1/29/99

Reps Bush and Ogden

Sponsor(s)

Staff: Steve Lundin

State Government Committee

Phone: 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

1. Maintaining registrations.

Several different procedures exist to maintain voter registrations.

Each county auditor must use a general maintenance program to remove names from the lists using change-of-address mail, digi-rec, return fund deliverables, each registered voter and other methods.

Names are removed from the inactive voter list within two years after being notified of being placed on the inactive list, the voter fails to vote, fails to notify the auditor of a change of address, fails to confirm he or she still lives at the registered address, fails to sign a petition that includes signatures verified by the auditor.

Deceased registered voters are removed from voter registrations using information from newspaper obituaries, signed statements by registered voters that other registered voters are deceased and comparing voter registrations with the names of persons who have died that are supplied by registrars from the issuance of death certificates.

2. Death certificates.

Death certificates filed with local registrars are forwarded to the state registrar within 30 days.

County auditors are supplied with lists of persons age 18 who have died. First-class registrars supply the list directly to county auditors, the state registrar supplies the list to county

auditor from death certificate forwarded to the state registrar by county registrars.

SUMMARY:

1. Use of information from death certificates.

The procedure for using death certificate information on voter registrations.

First-class registrars supply such lists directly to county auditor. The state registrar supplies a separate list every month to each county auditor of persons residing in the county for whom a death certificate was transferred to the state from first-class registrars county registrar within the last month. A county auditor is required to compare the list of deceased persons with voter registrations with at least 45 days prior to the expiration cycle held in the county after the lists received.

2. General maintenance program.

The general program to maintain voter registrations must be thorough. It is clarified that this general maintenance program must be performed at least once every two years.

3. New annual maintenance program.

A new program is established to maintain voter registrations.

The Secretary of State and county auditors are required to participate in a program to detect persons who may be registered in more than one county. The Office of the Secretary of State is required to create a list of registered voters with the same date of birth and similar names who appear on two or more county voter registrations. This list is forwarded each county auditor to cancel the previous registration of those who have subsequently registered in a different county.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

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