

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bil Analysis

Bil No. HB 1286

Clarifying the absent ballot tabulation.

Brief title

Hearing Date: 2/10/99

Reps Schmid, Romer and McMorris

Sponsor(s)

Staff Steve Lundin

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

Absent ballots only counted:

- o The voter for whom the ballot was issued signed the affidavit on the outer return envelope in which the ballot is placed.
- o The outer return envelope is postmarked on or before the date of the primary election which was received. However, if the postmark is not legible, an overseas voter service center may mail the ballot on the date of the affidavit on the outer return envelope if the voter attests to have cast the ballot on or before the date of the primary election for which the ballot was issued.
- o The ballot was received by the county auditor prior to certification of the election results.

Mail ballots counted under the same conditions as absent ballots counted.

SUMMARY:

Absent ballots counted tabulated as follows:

- o An absent ballot that is mailed in the United States may only be tabulated if it is postmarked on or before the Saturday prior to the date of the primary election for which it is issued and received by the county auditor on or before the day the election results are certified.
- o An absent ballot that is cast by an overseas voter service center may only be tabulated if the ballot is dated for mailing on or before the date of the primary election for which it is issued and received by the county auditor on or before the day the election results are certified.

results certified.

- o An absentee ballot is deposited in the county which it was issued, during normal hours of the primary election for which it was issued.
- o An absentee ballot is deposited in the county which it was issued before the close of poll places on the date of the primary election for which it was issued.

Instructions regarding absentee ballots describe the circumstances under which an absentee ballot will be tabulated.

FISCANOTE: Not requested.

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