

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bil Analysis

Bil No. HB 1287

Simplifying procedures for selection of precinct committee officers.

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/2/99

Reps D. Schmidt and Scott

Sponsor (s)

Staff: Steve Audin

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7127

**BACKGROUND:**

Candidates for precinct committee officers of a major political party for office candidates regulate office except that the filing period for PCO's consider longer than the normal filing period and includes a full normal filing period and continues through Friday the last day of the normal filing period.

PCO's are elected by general election in even-numbered years but a primary is held to nominate persons to those positions. The names of all candidates for PCO of a precinct for each major political party are listed on the ballot for the general election. The candidate receiving the most number of votes for a PCO position in a precinct of a major political party is elected. The number of votes for that candidate is equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in that precinct for a candidate for that party on any party's ballot at that election.

PCO's are elected to two-year terms of office. The chair of the central committee of a major political party fills a PCO vacancy, including a vacancy from the failure to elect a person at the general election. However, in a county with one million or more persons, the appointment is only made by the chair of the central committee upon the recommendation of the appropriate legislative district.

**SUMMARY:**

The procedure for electing PCO's is altered:

- o Only allowing the office to appear on a general election ballot if two or more persons have filed declarations of candidacy for precinct committee officers of the same major political

party from the same precinct;

- o Deleting the so-called 10% vote requirement, to be elected in such an election, a candidate for PC must both receive a plurality of the votes for that position and at least 10% of the number of votes cast in that precinct for a candidate from that party for any particular office on the ballot at that election.

The draft also clarifies that the PC for each major political party from the same precinct is a separate office, but a voter may only cast one vote for a candidate for a PC from that precinct.

**FISCANOTE:** Not requested.

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