

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1505

Requirements for absentee ballots designed by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

Brief Title

Hearing Date 2/9/99

Reps Erikson, McMorris and Schmidt,
Sponsor(s)

Staff Steve Lundin
Stat Government Committee
Phone 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

Absentee ballots and mail ballots are only counted if:

- o The voter for whom the ballot was issued has signed the outer return envelope in which the ballot is placed.
- o The outer return envelope is postmarked on or before the day of the primary election for which it was received. However, if the postmark is not legible, a postmark received from a post office or service center at least 10 days before the date of the primary election for which the ballot was issued is acceptable. The outer return envelope must also contain the voter's signature and address. The ballot must be received by the county auditor 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.

The Secretary of State has adopted rules providing that if a voter fails to sign the affidavit on the outer return envelope, the auditor must notify the voter and allow the voter to sign the affidavit at least one day before the election results are certified.

SUMMARY:

An absentee ballot or mail ballot is only counted if the voter for whom the ballot was issued signs the outer return envelope at least 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary election for which it was issued.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

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