

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1509

Permitting ballot for the presidential primary.

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/9/99

Rep Schmid, Kessler and Wolfe

Sponsor(s)

Staff Steve Lundin

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7127

BACKGROUND:

1. Presidential preference primary.

A state presidential preference primary is held on the fourth Tuesday of May in the year of the presidential election. This date may be moved if certain conditions are met. Provisions made for the Secretary of State to include on the ballot the names of candidates for each major political party whose nomination is from that party for president of the United States.

Any voter may receive a ballot that includes the names of candidates for every major political party. However, a voter may subscribe to a party declaration and receive a separate ballot that only includes the names of the candidates for the nominee of that major political party for the presidency.

A major political party may base its allocation of delegates to a national nominating convention on the whole or in part upon the results of the presidential preference primary.

2. Voting poll, absentee and mail ball elections.

Votes may be cast in this state by polling in person, by absentee ballot or by mail ballot. An absentee ballot for a single election may become an ongoing absentee ballot. These separate provisions exist for mail ballots:

- o A county auditor may designate precincts in which mail ballots are used in subsequent primary elections and those precincts may use mail ballots.
- o A local government may request a special election and the county auditor may allow the special election to be conducted using mail ballots if a party's office does not appear on the ballot.

- o A county may provide for a primary odd-numbered or be conducted using mail ballots if a partisan office does not appear on the ballot.

SUMMARY:

A county may conduct a primary or a presidential preference primary using mail ballots.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

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