

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

## Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1636

Changing primary and  
associated election procedures.

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/10/99

Reps Schmid, and Romero

Sponsor(s)

Staff Steve Lundin

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7127

### BACKGROUND:

A primary election nominating caucus is held the first Tuesday of September in a general election on the seventh day prior to a general election.

Declarations of candidacy for election to office are made with the filing of a declaration of candidacy for office on a five-day beginning on the first Monday of July and ending on the following Friday, the year in which the office to be filled is declared. A candidate for office in this irregular period, specifically periods open for three days.

A candidate may withdraw his name at any time before the close of business on the Thursday following the end of the irregular time.

If no one has filed for nomination from a major political party the business on the Thursday following the end of the irregular period, the major political party may nominate candidates on the next day.

A convention nominating persons as candidates for a political party or a party officer for a person or persons as independent candidates for a party officer, held during the eight-day period on the last Saturday of June through the first Saturday of July.

### SUMMARY:

1. Date of primary moved back.

The date of the primary moved back from a date in September (the first Tuesday of September) on the seventh day preceding the general election on the second Tuesday of August. As a

result the number of days between the primary and general election increased from 49 to 84 days, an additional 35 days.

## 2. Period holding convention nominating party candidates independent moved back.

The eight-day convention may be held to select nominees for party officials by a minor party, or an independent candidate for party officials, moved back so that the convention can be held from the first Saturday in May to the fourth Saturday in May, rather than from the first Saturday in June to the first Saturday in July.

## 3. Filing period moved back.

Filing periods for declaratory candidacy filed after the regular filing period are specified in the basic five-day filing period called the regular filing period. The first day of this regular filing period moved back from the fourth Monday in July to the second Monday in June. As a result the number of days between the first day of the regular filing period and the primary increased from 57 to 64 days, an additional seven days.

The three-day period that is held for noon filings for declaratory candidacy in the regular filing period called the special period. This special three-day period opens on the Monday after the close of the regular filing period and closes on the following Wednesday. Persons filing a declaration of candidacy as a member of a major political party or a party in opposition to a major political party select a nominee no later than the first Friday after the close of the regular filing period.

It is clarified that the three-day period opened for a voided candidacy is a nonpartisan office and no more eligible persons have filed for office during the regular special filing period.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Not requested.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The provisions take effect January 2000.