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SENATE BILL 6598

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senator Gardner; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to candidates for office; amending RCW 29.24.020,  
2 29.24.030, 29.24.035, 29.24.040, 29.24.060, and 29.71.020; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 29.27 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 29.24  
4 RCW; repealing RCW 29.24.055; and declaring an emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29.27 RCW  
7 to immediately follow RCW 29.27.050 to read as follows:

8 In a year in which the president and vice-president of the United  
9 States are to be elected, the secretary of state shall include in the  
10 certification prepared under RCW 29.27.050 the names of all candidates  
11 for president and vice-president who, at least forty-five days but not  
12 more than one hundred eighty days before the general election, have  
13 certified a slate of electors to the secretary of state under RCW  
14 29.71.020 and have been nominated either (1) by a major political  
15 party, as certified by the appropriate authority under party rules, or  
16 (2) by a minor party or as independent candidates under chapter 29.24  
17 RCW. Major or minor political parties or independent presidential  
18 candidates may substitute a different candidate for vice-president for  
19 the one whose name appears on the party's certification or nominating

1 petition at least forty-five days before the election, by certifying  
2 the change to the secretary of state.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.24.020 and 1989 c 215 s 2 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 Any nomination of a candidate for partisan public office, except  
6 president and vice-president of the United States, by other than a  
7 major political party shall only be made either: (1) In a convention  
8 held not earlier than the last Saturday in June and not later than the  
9 first Saturday in July or during any of the seven days immediately  
10 preceding the first day for filing declarations of candidacy as fixed  
11 in accordance with RCW 29.68.080; or (2) as provided by RCW  
12 ((29.51.170)) 29.62.180. A minor political party may hold more than  
13 one convention but in no case shall any such party nominate more than  
14 one candidate for any one partisan public office or position. For the  
15 purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of president and vice-  
16 president, United States senator, or a state-wide office, a minor party  
17 or independent candidate holding multiple conventions may add together  
18 the number of signatures of different individuals from each convention  
19 obtained in support of the candidate or candidates in order to obtain  
20 the number required by RCW 29.24.030. For all other offices for which  
21 nominations are made, signatures of the requisite number of registered  
22 voters must be obtained at a single convention.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29.24 RCW  
24 to read as follows:

25 (1) Independent candidates, or nominees of a minor political party,  
26 for president and vice-president must qualify to appear on the general  
27 election ballot in this state by filing the following documents with  
28 the secretary of state, within the time described in section 1 of this  
29 act:

30 (a) Nominating petitions bearing the signatures of at least two  
31 hundred registered voters of this state;

32 (b) A sworn statement signed by the candidates attesting to their  
33 consent to appear on the ballot, and bearing a mailing address and  
34 telephone number at which the campaign may be contacted; and

35 (c) Documentation of the slate of presidential electors pledged to  
36 support those candidates under RCW 29.71.020.

1 (2) No person may sign more than one nominating petition under this  
2 section for a particular election. Petitions may be circulated at a  
3 minor party convention held under RCW 29.24.020, or may be circulated  
4 separately from the convention, or both. Only one slate of candidates  
5 may appear on the ballot as nominees of the same political party.

6 (3) The petitions must:

7 (a) Clearly identify the minor party, or state that the petitions  
8 support an independent candidacy;

9 (b) Name the candidates for both president and vice-president on  
10 whose behalf the petitions are submitted;

11 (c) Contain a statement that the person signing the petition is a  
12 registered voter of the state of Washington; and

13 (d) Have a place for the voter to sign his or her name and to print  
14 his or her name and address.

15 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.24.030 and 1989 c 215 s 3 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 (1) To be valid, a convention must be attended by at least twenty-  
18 five registered voters.

19 (2) In order to nominate candidates for the offices of (~~president~~  
20 ~~and vice president of the United States,~~) United States senator, or  
21 any state-wide office, a nominating convention shall obtain and submit  
22 to the filing officer the signatures of at least two hundred registered  
23 voters of the state of Washington. In order to nominate candidates for  
24 any other office, a nominating convention shall obtain and submit to  
25 the filing officer the signatures of twenty-five persons who are  
26 registered to vote in the jurisdiction of the office for which the  
27 nominations are made.

28 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.24.035 and 1989 c 215 s 5 are each amended to read  
29 as follows:

30 A nominating petition submitted under this chapter shall clearly  
31 identify the name of the minor party or independent candidate  
32 convention as it appears on the certificate of nomination as required  
33 by RCW (~~(29.24.030(3))~~) 29.24.040(3). The petition shall also contain  
34 a statement that the person signing the petition is a registered voter  
35 of the state of Washington and shall have a space for the voter to sign  
36 his or her name and to print his or her name and address. No person  
37 may sign more than one nominating petition under this chapter for an

1 office for a primary or election, except that a voter may sign both a  
2 petition relating to a nominating convention under RCW 29.24.020 and a  
3 separate nominating petition for candidates for president and vice-  
4 president under section 3 of this act.

5 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29.24.040 and 1989 c 215 s 4 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 A certificate evidencing nominations made at a convention must:

8 (1) Be in writing;

9 (2) Contain the name of each person nominated, his or her  
10 residence, and the office for which he or she is named(~~(, and if the~~  
11 ~~nomination is for the offices of president and vice-president of the~~  
12 ~~United States, a sworn statement from both nominees giving their~~  
13 ~~consent to the nomination));~~

14 (3) Identify the minor political party or the independent candidate  
15 on whose behalf the convention was held;

16 (4) Be verified by the oath of the presiding officer and secretary;

17 (5) Be accompanied by a nominating petition or petitions bearing  
18 the signatures and addresses of registered voters equal in number to  
19 that required by RCW 29.24.030;

20 (6) Contain proof of publication of the notice of calling the  
21 convention; and

22 (7) Be submitted to the appropriate filing officer not later than  
23 one week following the adjournment of the convention at which the  
24 nominations were made. If the nominations are made only for offices  
25 whose jurisdiction is entirely within one county, the certificate and  
26 nominating petitions must be filed with the county auditor. If a minor  
27 party or independent candidate convention nominates any candidates for  
28 offices whose jurisdiction encompasses more than one county, all  
29 nominating petitions and the convention certificates must be filed with  
30 the secretary of state.

31 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29.24.060 and 1989 c 215 s 7 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:

33 Upon the receipt of the certificate of nomination under RCW  
34 29.24.040 or nominating petition under section 3 of this act, the  
35 officer with whom it is filed shall check the certificate and canvass  
36 the signatures on the ~~((accompanying))~~ nominating petitions to  
37 determine if the requirements of ~~((RCW 29.24.030))~~ this chapter have

1 been met. Once the determination has been made, the filing officer  
2 shall notify the presiding officer of the convention, the person or  
3 persons submitting the presidential and vice-presidential nominating  
4 petitions, and any other persons requesting the notification, of his or  
5 her decision regarding the sufficiency of the certificate or the  
6 nominating petitions. Any appeal regarding the filing officer's  
7 determination must be filed with the superior court of the county in  
8 which the certificate or petitions were filed not later than five days  
9 from the date the determination is made, and shall be heard and finally  
10 disposed of by the court within five days of the filing. Nominating  
11 petitions shall not be available for public inspection or copying.

12 **Sec. 8.** RCW 29.71.020 and 1990 c 59 s 69 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 In the year in which a presidential election is held, each major  
15 and each minor political party (~~((and each minor political party or~~  
16 ~~independent candidate convention held under chapter 29.24 RCW))~~) that  
17 nominates candidates for president and vice-president of the United  
18 States, and each independent slate of candidates for president and  
19 vice-president, shall nominate presidential electors for this state.  
20 The party (~~(or)~~), convention, or campaign shall file with the secretary  
21 of state a certificate (~~((signed by the presiding officer of the~~  
22 ~~convention at which the presidential electors were chosen,))~~) listing  
23 the names and addresses of the presidential electors. Each  
24 presidential elector shall execute and file with the secretary of state  
25 a pledge that, as an elector, he or she will vote for the candidates  
26 nominated by that party. The names of presidential electors shall not  
27 appear on the ballots. The votes cast for candidates for president and  
28 vice-president of each political party shall be counted for the  
29 candidates for presidential electors of that political party.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** RCW 29.24.055 (Presidential electors--  
31 Selection at convention) and 1989 c 215 s 6 are each repealed.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
33 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
2 immediately.

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