

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5037

As of February 12, 2001

Title: An act relating to the time for signing and receipt of absentee and mail ballots.

Brief Description: Requiring absentee ballots to reach the auditor by the day after election day.

Sponsors: Senators Kline, Patterson, McCaslin, Kohl-Welles and Winsley.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State & Local Government: 2/14/01.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Staff: Aaron Jennings (786-7445)

Background: Absentee ballots must be signed and postmarked or deposited in the county auditor's office by 8:00 pm the day of the election or primary. If a postmark is illegible, the date on the return identification envelope where the voter attests will determine the absentee ballot's validity.

Summary of Bill: In-state absentee ballots must be signed by the date of the election or primary and arrive at the county auditor's office by 5:00 pm the day after the election or the primary for the ballots to be counted. Out-of-state, overseas, or military service voters are still counted if the absentee ballot's envelope is signed and postmarked by the date of the election or primary.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.