
HOUSE RESOLUTION 4602

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Kessler and Mastin

Read first time . Referred to .

1 WHEREAS, Washington State has used a blanket primary system to
2 nominate candidates for partisan elective offices since the
3 Legislature enacted Initiative to the Legislature No. 2 in 1935;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court held, in *California*
6 *Democratic Party et al. v. Jones*, 530 U.S. . . ., 120 S.Ct 2402,
7 (No. 99-401, June 26, 2000), that the blanket primary system in
8 the State of California was an unconstitutional violation of a
9 political party's First Amendment right of association; and

10 WHEREAS, The Washington State blanket primary system closely
11 resembles the California State blanket primary system; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States District Court, Western District of
13 Washington at Tacoma, issued a preliminary injunction on July 20,
14 2000, prohibiting the State of Washington from conducting
15 primaries for the Democratic and Republican Parties after 2000 in
16 which voters other than those authorized by a party are permitted
17 to participate in that party's primary; and

18 WHEREAS, The District Court directed the Democratic and
19 Republican Parties to submit proposed permanent injunctions by

1 March 1, 2001, to protect their rights concerning primaries for
2 partisan elective offices in Washington State, and the Secretary
3 of State to file a response to these proposals shortly thereafter;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of
5 Representatives establishes a select committee on elections to
6 consider and develop legislation on conducting primaries for
7 partisan elective offices in this state, along with any other
8 election matters referred to the committee, and report legislation
9 on these subjects out of committee with all the powers and duties
10 of a standing committee of the house; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee will consist of
12 eight members, four Republican and four Democratic; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee will cease to exist
14 on December 31, 2001.

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