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HOUSE BILL 1155

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Hunt, Armstrong, Ruderman, McDermott, Tom, Nixon, Wallace, Shabro, Haigh, Rockefeller, Anderson, McCoy, Kenney, Mielke, Linville, Conway, Hudgins, Woods, Kagi, Chase and Upthegrove; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 01/20/2003. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to a pilot project for military and overseas voters  
2 to vote over the Internet; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Recognizing that it is the responsibility of  
5 each election official in the state of Washington to ensure access to  
6 the ballot for all persons who are out of state or overseas in defense  
7 of this great nation or for other purposes, the legislature finds that  
8 it is necessary to examine and use all available secure methods of  
9 ballot transmission and collection in order to secure the voting  
10 franchise for military and overseas voters.

11 Therefore, notwithstanding any other provisions of Title 29 RCW, a  
12 county may participate in any pilot project sanctioned by the secretary  
13 of state and in compliance with standards and regulations established  
14 by the Federal Voting Assistance Program, United States Department of  
15 Defense, to allow service and overseas voters as defined by RCW  
16 29.01.155 and 29.01.117 to register to vote and cast their votes  
17 electronically, including votes cast over the Internet or the World  
18 Wide Web. As is practicable, votes must be cast and counted in  
19 conformity with the provisions of Title 29 RCW. Election officials

1 shall rely upon procedures established by the United States Department  
2 of Defense for security, secrecy, and validation of votes, and are not  
3 subject to civil liability or criminal penalty for following these  
4 procedures. Votes transmitted to the election authority under Title 29  
5 RCW over an electronic medium using the Internet or the World Wide Web  
6 are subject to a recount or election contest but not on the grounds  
7 that the vote is invalid or suspect because it was cast over the  
8 Internet or the World Wide Web.

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