HOUSE BILL 2127

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State of Washington   **58th Legislature**   **2003 Regular Session**

By Representatives Wallace, Mielke and Hatfield

Read first time 02/26/2003.   Referred to Committee on State Government.

1   AN ACT Relating to the number of voters in a precinct; and amending
2   RCW 29.04.040.

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

4   **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.04.040 and 1999 c 158 s 3 are each amended to read
5   as follows:
6   (1) ((No paper ballot precinct may contain more than three hundred
7   active registered voters.))   The county legislative authority may
8   divide, alter, or combine precincts ((so that,)) whenever
9   practicable((, over-populated precincts shall contain no more than two
10 hundred fifty active registered voters in anticipation of future
11 growth)).
12   (((2))) Precinct boundaries may be altered at any time as long as
13 sufficient time exists prior to a given election for the necessary
14 procedural steps to be honored. Except as permitted under subsection
15 (((5))) (4) of this section, no precinct boundaries may be changed
16 during the period starting on the thirtieth day prior to the first day
17 for candidates to file for the primary election and ending with the day
18 of the general election.

1   (((3) Precincts in which voting machines or electronic voting
2   devices are used may contain as many as nine hundred active registered
3   voters.))
4   (2) The number of poll-site ballot counting devices at each polling
5   place is at the discretion of the auditor. The number of devices must
6   be adequate to meet the expected voter turnout.
7   (((4))) (3) On petition of twenty-five or more voters resident more
8   than ten miles from any polling site, the county legislative authority
9   shall establish a separate voting precinct therefor.
10   (((5))) (4) The county auditor shall temporarily adjust precinct
11   boundaries when a city or town annexes unincorporated territory to the
12   city or town. The adjustment shall be made as soon as possible after
13   the approval of the annexation. The temporary adjustment shall be
14   limited to the minimum changes necessary to accommodate the addition of
15   the territory to the city or town and shall remain in effect only until
16   precinct boundary modifications reflecting the annexation are adopted
17   by the county legislative authority.
18   The county legislative authority may establish by ordinance a
19   limitation on the maximum number of active registered voters in each
20   precinct within its jurisdiction. The limitation may be different for
21   precincts based upon the method of voting used for such precincts ((and
22   the number may be less than the number established by law, but in no
23   case may the number exceed that authorized by law)).
24   The county legislative authority of each county in the state
25   hereafter formed shall, at their first session, divide their respective
26   counties into election precincts ((with two hundred fifty active
27   registered voters or less)) and establish the boundaries of the
28   precincts. The county auditor shall thereupon designate the voting
29   place for each such precinct.
30   (((6))) (5) In determining the number of active registered voters
31   for the purposes of this section, persons who are ongoing absentee
32   voters under RCW ((29.36.013)) 29.36.240 shall not be counted. Nothing
33   in this subsection may be construed as altering the vote tallying
34   requirements of RCW 29.62.090.

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