

SHB 1754 - H AMD

By Representative McDermott

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "**Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.48.010 and 2004 c 266 s 14 are each amended
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) With express authorization from the county legislative
6 authority, the county auditor may conduct all primary, special, and
7 general elections entirely by mail ballot. The county legislative
8 authority must give the county auditor at least ninety days' notice
9 before the first election to be conducted entirely by mail ballot.
10 If the county legislative authority and the county auditor decide
11 to return to a polling place election environment, the county
12 legislative authority must give the county auditor at least one
13 hundred eighty days' notice before the first election to be
14 conducted using polling places. Authorization under this
15 subsection must apply to all primary, special, and general
16 elections conducted by the county auditor.

17 (2) The county auditor may designate any precinct having fewer
18 than two hundred active registered voters at the time of closing of
19 voter registration as provided in RCW 29A.08.140 as a mail ballot
20 precinct. ((The county auditor shall notify each registered voter
21 by mail that for all future primaries and elections the voting in
22 his or her precinct will be by mail ballot only.)) Authorization
23 from the county legislative authority is not required to designate
24 a precinct as a mail ballot precinct under this subsection. In
25 determining the number of registered voters in a precinct for the
26 purposes of this section, persons who are ongoing absentee voters
27 under RCW 29A.40.040 shall not be counted. Nothing in this section
28 may be construed as altering the vote tallying requirements of RCW
29 29A.60.230.

1 (3) The county auditor shall notify each registered voter by
2 mail that for all future primaries and elections the voting will be
3 by mail ballot only. The auditor shall mail each active voter a
4 ballot at least eighteen days before a primary, general election,
5 or special election. The auditor shall send each inactive voter
6 either a ballot or an application to receive a ballot at least
7 eighteen days before a primary, general election, or special
8 election. The auditor shall determine which of the two is to be
9 sent. If the inactive voter returns a voted ballot, the ballot
10 shall be counted and the voter's status restored to active. If the
11 inactive voter completes and returns an application, a ballot shall
12 be sent and the voter's status restored to active. The
13 requirements regarding certification, reporting, and the mailing of
14 overseas and military ballots in RCW ((29.36.270)) 29A.40.070 apply
15 to elections conducted by mail ballot ((precincts)).

16 (4) If the ((precinct exceeds two hundred registered voters, or
17 the)) county legislative authority and county auditor determine
18 under subsection (1) of this section, or if the county auditor
19 determines under subsection (2) of this section, to return to a
20 polling place election environment, the auditor shall notify each
21 registered voter, by mail, of this and shall provide the address of
22 the polling place to be used.

23 (5) All vote by mail elections must provide voting access to
24 individuals with disabilities as provided in chapter 29A.46 RCW."

EFFECT: Removes the requirement that all elections held after
January 1, 2008, be conducted by mail.