

SHB 2594 - H AMD 838
By Representative Hasegawa

1 On page 3, after line 7, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 3. RCW 29A.44.240 and 2003 c 111 s 1123 are each amended
3 to read as follows:

4 (1) Voting shall be secret except to the extent necessary to
5 assist sensory or physically disabled voters, or voters who require
6 language interpretation.

7 (2) If any voter declares in the presence of the election
8 officers that because of sensory or physical disability he or she
9 is unable to register or record his or her vote, he or she may
10 designate a person of his or her choice or two election officers
11 from opposite political parties to enter the voting machine booth
12 with him or her and record his or her vote as he or she directs.

13 (3) Any voter who requires interpretation assistance may
14 designate a person of his or her choice to enter the voting machine
15 booth with him or her to provide language interpretation and to
16 assist the voter in recording his or her vote. A person who
17 assists with language interpretation under this subsection may not
18 be the voter's employer or be associated with the voter's union.

19 (4) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

20 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.44.410 and 2003 c 111 s 1134 are each amended
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) At least ten days prior to any primary or election, general
23 or special, the county auditor shall appoint one inspector and two
24 judges of election for each precinct (or each combination of
25 precincts temporarily consolidated as a single precinct for that
26 primary or election), other than those precincts designated as
27 vote-by-mail precincts pursuant to RCW 29A.48.010. Except as
28 provided in subsection (3) of this section, the persons appointed
29 shall be among those whose names are contained on the lists
30 furnished under RCW 29A.44.430 by the chairpersons of the county

1 central committees of the political parties entitled to
2 representation thereon. Such precinct election officers, whenever
3 possible, should be residents of the precinct in which they serve.

4 (2) The county auditor may delete from the lists of names
5 submitted to the auditor by the chairpersons of the county central
6 committees under RCW 29A.44.430: (a) The names of those persons
7 who indicate to the auditor that they cannot or do not wish to
8 serve as precinct election officers for the primary or election or
9 who otherwise cannot so serve; and (b) the names of those persons
10 who lack the ability to conduct properly the duties of an inspector
11 or judge of election after training in that proper conduct has been
12 made available to them by the auditor. The lists which are
13 submitted to the auditor in a timely manner under RCW 29A.44.430,
14 less the deletions authorized by this subsection, constitute the
15 official nomination lists for inspectors and judges of election.

16 (3) If the number of persons whose names are on the official
17 nomination list for a political party is not sufficient to satisfy
18 the requirements of subsection (4) of this section as it applies to
19 that political party or is otherwise insufficient to provide the
20 number of precinct election officials required from that political
21 party, the auditor shall notify the chair of the party's county
22 central committee regarding the deficiency. The chair may, within
23 five business days of being notified by the auditor, add to the
24 party's nomination list the names of additional persons belonging
25 to that political party who are qualified to serve on the election
26 boards. To the extent that, following this procedure, the number
27 of persons whose names appear on the official nomination lists of
28 the political parties is insufficient to provide the number of
29 election inspectors and judges required for a primary or election,
30 the auditor may appoint a properly trained person whose name does
31 not appear on such a list as an inspector or judge of election for
32 a precinct. The auditor must make reasonable efforts to appoint
33 staff and poll workers who are bilingual. Available bilingual poll
34 workers must be assigned to poll sites based on the language spoken
35 by the poll worker and the population speaking that language in the
36 county.

37 (4) The county auditor shall designate the inspector and one
38 judge in each precinct from that political party which polled the
39 highest number of votes in the county for its candidate for

1 president at the last preceding presidential election and one judge
2 from that political party polling the next highest number of votes
3 in the county for its candidate for president at the same election.
4 The provisions of this subsection apply only if the number of names
5 on the official nomination list for inspectors and judges of
6 election for a political party is sufficient to satisfy the
7 requirements imposed by this subsection.

8 (5) Except as provided in RCW 29A.44.440 for the filling of
9 vacancies, this shall be the exclusive method for the appointment
10 of inspectors and judges to serve as precinct election officers at
11 any primary or election, general or special, and shall supersede
12 the provisions of any and all other statutes, whether general or
13 special in nature, having different requirements."

14 Correct the title.

EFFECT: A provision is added that allows voters with language barriers to designate a person of his or her choice to enter the voting machine booth at poll sites to assist with interpretation of voting materials. County auditors are encouraged to appoint bilingual staff at poll sites that correspond to the language spoken in the county.