

SHB 1754 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Government Operations & Elections

ADOPTED 04/14/2005

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 to  
4 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. If  
10 the county legislative authority and the county auditor decide to  
11 return to a polling place election environment, the county legislative  
12 authority must give the county auditor at least one hundred eighty  
13 days' notice before the first election to be conducted using polling  
14 places. Authorization under this subsection must apply to all primary,  
15 special, and general elections conducted by the county auditor.

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

28 (3) The county auditor shall notify each registered voter by mail  
29 that for all future primaries and elections the voting will be by mail  
30 ballot only. The auditor shall mail each active voter a ballot at

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

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

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19 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "elections;" strike the  
20 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 29A.48.010."

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