

SSB 5499 - S AMD TO S AMD (KAST HESS 016) **216**
By Senator McCaslin

ADOPTED 03/11/2005

1 On page 8, after line 19 of the amendment, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 5. RCW 29A.08.125 and 2003 c 111 s 209 are each amended to
3 read as follows:

4 (1) Each county auditor shall maintain a computer file containing
5 the records of all registered voters within the county. The auditor
6 may provide for the establishment and maintenance of such files by
7 private contract or through interlocal agreement as provided by chapter
8 39.34 RCW. The computer file must include, but not be limited to, each
9 voter's last name, first name, middle initial, date of birth, residence
10 address, gender, date of registration, applicable taxing district and
11 precinct codes, and the last date on which the individual voted.

12 (2) County election officials shall randomly investigate the record
13 of all registered voters within the county contained on the official
14 statewide voter registration list for that county to make corrections
15 in the record regarding persons who are deceased or whose residence
16 differs from that on the official statewide voter registration list.

17 (3) The county auditor shall subsequently record each consecutive
18 date upon which the individual has voted and retain at least the last
19 five such consecutive dates. If the voter has not voted at least five
20 times since establishing his or her current registration record, only
21 the available dates will be included.

22 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.08.125 and 2004 c 267 s 110 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (1) Each county auditor shall maintain a computer file containing
25 a copy of each record of all registered voters within the county
26 contained on the official statewide voter registration list for that
27 county.

28 (2) County election officials shall randomly investigate the record
29 of all registered voters within the county contained on the official

1 statewide voter registration list for that county to make corrections
2 in the record regarding persons who are deceased or whose residence
3 differs from that on the official statewide voter registration list.

4 (3) The computer file must include, but not be limited to, each
5 voter's last name, first name, middle initial, date of birth, residence
6 address, gender, date of registration, applicable taxing district and
7 precinct codes, and the last date on which the individual voted.

8 (4) The county auditor shall subsequently record each consecutive
9 date upon which the individual has voted and retain all such
10 consecutive dates.

11 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29A.08.605 and 2003 c 111 s 236 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 In addition to the case-by-case maintenance required under RCW
14 29A.08.620 and 29A.08.630 (~~and~~), the canceling of registrations under
15 RCW 29A.08.510, and the random investigation required under RCW
16 29A.08.125, the county auditor shall establish a general program of
17 voter registration list maintenance. This program must be a thorough
18 review that is applied uniformly throughout the county and must be
19 nondiscriminatory in its application. Any program established must be
20 completed at least once every two years and not later than ninety days
21 before the date of a primary or general election for federal office.
22 The county may fulfill its obligations under this section in one of the
23 following ways:

24 (1) The county auditor may enter into one or more contracts with
25 the United States postal service, or its licensee, which permit the
26 auditor to use postal service change-of-address information. If the
27 auditor receives change of address information from the United States
28 postal service that indicates that a voter has changed his or her
29 residence address within the county, the auditor shall transfer the
30 registration of that voter and send a confirmation notice informing the
31 voter of the transfer to the new address. If the auditor receives
32 postal change of address information indicating that the voter has
33 moved out of the county, the auditor shall send a confirmation notice
34 to the voter and advise the voter of the need to reregister in the new
35 county. The auditor shall place the voter's registration on inactive
36 status;

1 (2) A direct, nonforwardable, nonprofit or first-class mailing to
2 every registered voter within the county bearing the postal endorsement
3 "Return Service Requested." If address correction information for a
4 voter is received by the county auditor after this mailing, the auditor
5 shall place that voter on inactive status and shall send to the voter
6 a confirmation notice;

7 (3) Any other method approved by the secretary of state.

8 **Sec. 8.** RCW 29A.08.605 and 2004 c 267 s 128 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 In addition to the case-by-case maintenance required under RCW
11 29A.08.620 and 29A.08.630 (~~and~~), the canceling of registrations under
12 RCW 29A.08.510, and the random investigation required under RCW
13 29A.08.125, the secretary of state and the county auditor shall
14 cooperatively establish a general program of voter registration list
15 maintenance. This program must be a thorough review that is applied
16 uniformly throughout the county and must be nondiscriminatory in its
17 application. Any program established must be completed at least once
18 every two years and not later than ninety days before the date of a
19 primary or general election for federal office. This obligation may be
20 fulfilled in one of the following ways:

21 (1) The secretary of state may enter into one or more contracts
22 with the United States postal service, or its licensee, which permit
23 the use of postal service change-of-address information. If the change
24 of address information is received from the United States postal
25 service that indicates that a voter has changed his or her residence
26 address within the state, the auditor shall transfer the registration
27 of that voter and send a confirmation notice informing the voter of the
28 transfer to the new address;

29 (2) A direct, nonforwardable, nonprofit or first-class mailing to
30 every registered voter bearing the postal endorsement "Return Service
31 Requested." If address correction information for a voter is received
32 by the county auditor after this mailing, the auditor shall place that
33 voter on inactive status and shall send to the voter a confirmation
34 notice;

35 (3) Any other method approved by the secretary of state.

1 **Sec. 9.** RCW 29A.08.651 and 2004 c 267 s 101 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The office of the secretary of state shall create and maintain
4 a statewide voter registration data base. This data base must be a
5 single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized
6 statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered
7 at the state level that contains the name and registration information
8 of every legally registered voter in the state and assigns a unique
9 identifier to each legally registered voter in the state.

10 (2) The computerized list must serve as the single system for
11 storing and maintaining the official list of registered voters
12 throughout the state.

13 (3) The computerized list must contain the name and registration
14 information of every legally registered voter in the state.

15 (4) Under the computerized list, a unique identifier is assigned to
16 each legally registered voter in the state.

17 (5) The computerized list must be coordinated with other agency
18 data bases within the state, including but not limited to the
19 department of corrections, the department of licensing, and the
20 department of health.

21 (6) Any election officer in the state, including any local election
22 officer, may obtain immediate electronic access to the information
23 contained in the computerized list.

24 (7) All voter registration information obtained by any local
25 election officer in the state must be electronically entered into the
26 computerized list on an expedited basis at the time the information is
27 provided to the local officer.

28 (8) The chief state election officer shall provide support, as may
29 be required, so that local election officers are able to enter
30 information as described in subsection (3) of this section.

31 (9) The computerized list serves as the official voter registration
32 list for the conduct of all elections.

33 (10) The secretary of state has data authority on all voter
34 registration data.

35 (11) The voter registration data base must be designed to
36 accomplish at a minimum, the following:

37 (a) Comply with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252);

38 (b) Identify duplicate voter registrations;

- 1 (c) Identify suspected duplicate voters;
- 2 (d) Screen against the department of corrections data base to aid
3 in the cancellation of voter registration of felons;
- 4 (e) Provide up-to-date signatures of voters for the purposes of
5 initiative signature checking;
- 6 (f) Provide current and accurate voter registration information
7 using information obtained under RCW 29A.08.125;
- 8 (g) Provide for a comparison between the voter registration data
9 base and the department of licensing change of address data base;
- 10 (~~(g)~~) (h) Provide online access for county auditors with the goal
11 of real time duplicate checking and update capabilities; and
- 12 (~~(h)~~) (i) Provide for the cancellation of voter registration for
13 persons who have moved to other states and surrendered their Washington
14 state drivers' licenses."

15 Renumber the sections following consecutively and correct internal
16 references accordingly.

17 On page 22, after line 4 of the amendment, insert the following:

18 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 26. Sections 5 and 7 of this act expire
19 January 1, 2006.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 27. Sections 6, 8, and 9 of this act take
21 effect January 1, 2006."

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22 On page 22, line 10 of the title amendment, after "29A.04.611,"
23 insert "29A.08.125, 29A.08.125, 29A.08.605, 29A.08.605, 29A.08.651,"

24 On page 22, line 15 of the title amendment, strike "and" and after
25 "penalties" insert "; providing effective dates; and providing

1 expiration dates"

EFFECT: Requires that county elections officials randomly investigate the registered voter list and make corrections.

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