

SSB 5499 - S AMD 61
By Senator Roach

PULLED 03/08/2005

1 On page 5, after line 36, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 3. RCW 29A.40.091 and 2004 c 271 s 135 are each amended to
3 read as follows:

4 The county auditor shall send each absentee voter a ballot, a
5 security envelope in which to seal the ballot after voting, a larger
6 envelope in which to return the security envelope, and instructions on
7 how to mark the ballot and how to return it to the county auditor. The
8 instructions that accompany an absentee ballot for a partisan primary
9 must include instructions for voting the applicable ballot style, as
10 provided in chapter 29A.36 RCW. The absentee voter's name and address
11 must be printed on the larger return envelope, which must also contain
12 a declaration by the absentee voter reciting his or her qualifications
13 and stating that he or she has not voted in any other jurisdiction at
14 this election, together with a summary of the penalties for any
15 violation of any of the provisions of this chapter. The return
16 envelope must provide space for the voter to indicate the date on which
17 the ballot was voted and for the voter to sign the oath. A summary of
18 the applicable penalty provisions of this chapter must be printed on
19 the return envelope immediately adjacent to the space for the voter's
20 signature. The signature of the voter on the return envelope must
21 affirm and attest to the statements regarding the qualifications of
22 that voter and to the validity of the ballot. The return envelope must
23 also have a secrecy flap that the voter may seal that will cover the
24 voter's signature and return address. For out-of-state voters,
25 overseas voters, and service voters, the signed declaration on the
26 return envelope constitutes the equivalent of a voter registration for
27 the election or primary for which the ballot has been issued. The
28 voter must be instructed to either return the ballot to the county
29 auditor by whom it was issued or attach sufficient first class postage,

1 if applicable, and mail the ballot to the appropriate county auditor no
2 later than the day of the election or primary for which the ballot was
3 issued.

4 If the county auditor chooses to forward absentee ballots, he or
5 she must include with the ballot a clear explanation of the
6 qualifications necessary to vote in that election and must also advise
7 a voter with questions about his or her eligibility to contact the
8 county auditor. This explanation may be provided on the ballot
9 envelope, on an enclosed insert, or printed directly on the ballot
10 itself. If the information is not included, the envelope must clearly
11 indicate that the ballot is not to be forwarded and that return postage
12 is guaranteed."

13 Renumber the sections following consecutively and correct internal
14 references accordingly.

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15 In line 2 of the title, after "29A.04.611," insert "29A.40.091,"

EFFECT: (1) Requires that absentee voter's name and address be
printed on the return envelope of an absentee ballot;
(2) Requires that the return envelope have a secrecy flap that the
voter may seal and cover the voter's signature and return address.

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