<u>**SB 5561**</u> - H AMD **728**
    By Representative Roach

1   Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2   following:
3   "**Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.08.145 and 2006 c 97 s 2 are each amended to
4   read as follows:
5   This section establishes a special procedure which an elector
6   not registered in the state may use to register to vote during the
7   period beginning after the closing of registration for voting at
8   the polls under RCW 29A.08.140 and ending on the fifteenth day
9   before a primary, special election, or general election. A
10 qualified elector in the state may register to vote in person in
11 the office of the county auditor of the county in which the
12 applicant resides, or at a voter registration location specifically
13 designated for this purpose by the county auditor or secretary of
14 state, and apply for an absentee ballot for that primary or
15 election. The auditor or registration assistant shall register
16 that individual in the manner provided in this chapter. The
17 application for an absentee ballot executed by the newly registered
18 voter for the primary or election that follows the execution of the
19 registration shall be promptly transmitted to the auditor with the
20 completed voter registration form. <u>Overseas and service voters are</u>
21 <u>exempt from voter registration requirements.</u>

22   **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.40.020 and 2003 c 111 s 1002 are each amended
23 to read as follows:
24   (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, a registered voter or
25 out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or service voter desiring to
26 cast an absentee ballot at a single election or primary must
27 request the absentee ballot from his or her county auditor no
28 earlier than ninety days nor later than the day before the election
29 or primary at which the person seeks to vote. <u>An overseas or</u>
30 <u>service voter may request an absentee ballot on the day of</u>

1 <u>election.</u> Except as otherwise provided by law, the request may be
2 made orally in person, by telephone, electronically, or in writing.
3 An application or request for an absentee ballot made under the
4 authority of a federal statute or regulation will be considered and
5 given the same effect as a request for an absentee ballot under
6 this chapter.
7   (2) A voter requesting an absentee ballot for a primary may
8 also request an absentee ballot for the following general election.
9 A request by an out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or service
10 voter for an absentee ballot for a primary election will be
11 considered as a request for an absentee ballot for the following
12 general election.
13   (3) In requesting an absentee ballot, the voter shall state the
14 address to which the absentee ballot should be sent. A request for
15 an absentee ballot from an out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or
16 service voter must include the address of the last residence in the
17 state of Washington and either a written application or the oath on
18 the return envelope must include a declaration of the other
19 qualifications of the applicant as an elector of this state. A
20 request for an absentee ballot from any other voter must state the
21 address at which that voter is currently registered to vote in the
22 state of Washington or the county auditor shall verify that
23 information from the voter registration records of the county.
24   (4) A request for an absentee ballot from a registered voter
25 who is within this state must be made directly to the auditor of
26 the county in which the voter is registered. An absentee ballot
27 request from a registered voter who is temporarily outside this
28 state or from an out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or service
29 voter may be made either to the appropriate county auditor or to
30 the secretary of state, who shall promptly forward the request to
31 the appropriate county auditor.
32   (5) No person, organization, or association may distribute
33 absentee ballot applications within this state that contain a
34 return address other than that of the appropriate county auditor."

35   Correct the title.

EFFECT: Strikes the underlying bill. Allows overseas and services voters to apply for an absentee ballot on Election Day.