

SB 5561 - H AMD 726

By Representative Roach

1 On page 2, line 3, after "form." insert "Overseas and service
2 voters are exempt from voter registration requirements."

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

4 "**Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.40.020 and 2003 c 111 s 1002 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, a registered voter or
7 out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or service voter desiring to
8 cast an absentee ballot at a single election or primary must
9 request the absentee ballot from his or her county auditor no
10 earlier than ninety days nor later than the day before the election
11 or primary at which the person seeks to vote. An overseas or
12 service voter may request an absentee ballot on the day of
13 election. Except as otherwise provided by law, the request may be
14 made orally in person, by telephone, electronically, or in writing.
15 An application or request for an absentee ballot made under the
16 authority of a federal statute or regulation will be considered and
17 given the same effect as a request for an absentee ballot under
18 this chapter.

19 (2) A voter requesting an absentee ballot for a primary may
20 also request an absentee ballot for the following general election.
21 A request by an out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or service
22 voter for an absentee ballot for a primary election will be
23 considered as a request for an absentee ballot for the following
24 general election.

25 (3) In requesting an absentee ballot, the voter shall state the
26 address to which the absentee ballot should be sent. A request for
27 an absentee ballot from an out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or
28 service voter must include the address of the last residence in the
29 state of Washington and either a written application or the oath on
30 the return envelope must include a declaration of the other

1 qualifications of the applicant as an elector of this state. A
2 request for an absentee ballot from any other voter must state the
3 address at which that voter is currently registered to vote in the
4 state of Washington or the county auditor shall verify that
5 information from the voter registration records of the county.

6 (4) A request for an absentee ballot from a registered voter
7 who is within this state must be made directly to the auditor of
8 the county in which the voter is registered. An absentee ballot
9 request from a registered voter who is temporarily outside this
10 state or from an out-of-state voter, overseas voter, or service
11 voter may be made either to the appropriate county auditor or to
12 the secretary of state, who shall promptly forward the request to
13 the appropriate county auditor.

14 (5) No person, organization, or association may distribute
15 absentee ballot applications within this state that contain a
16 return address other than that of the appropriate county auditor."

17 Correct the title.

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