

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESHB 2496

As of February 19, 2010

Title: An act relating to ballot design.

Brief Description: Modifying ballot design provisions.

Sponsors: House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives White, Orwall, Chase, Dickerson, Carlyle, Upthegrove, Springer, Nelson, Simpson, Miloscia, Dunshee and Hunt).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/15/10, 98-0.

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 2/23/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Edward Redmond (786-7471)

Background: Washington State election laws require clear and concise instructions, which direct the voter how to mark the ballot, to be printed on the top of each ballot form. Questions of adopting constitutional amendments or any other state measure must appear immediately after the ballot instructions and before listing any offices.

Summary of Bill: Current statutory provisions concerning ballot design are amended. Ballots must have a clear delineation between the ballot instructions and where the voting begins. This demarcation may be through the use of white space, illustration, shading, color, symbol, font size, or bold type. The Secretary of State must establish standards for ballot design and layout consistent with statutory requirements.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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