CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SENATE BILL 5017

61st Legislature
2009 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 3, 2009
YEAS 48 NAYS 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 7, 2009
YEAS 97 NAYS 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5017** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

Secretary of State
State of Washington

SENATE BILL 5017

Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Senators McDermott, Parlette, Fairley, Oemig, Hatfield, Shin, Honeyford, and Haugen

Read first time 01/12/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

AN ACT Relating to inactive voters; and amending RCW 29A.48.010.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

Sec. 1. RCW 29A.48.010 and 2005 c 241 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) With express authorization from the county legislative authority, the county auditor may conduct all primary, special, and general elections entirely by mail ballot. The county legislative authority must give the county auditor at least ninety days' notice before the first election to be conducted entirely by mail ballot. If the county legislative authority and the county auditor decide to return to a polling place election environment, the county legislative authority must give the county auditor at least one hundred eighty days' notice before the first election to be conducted using polling places. Authorization under this subsection must apply to all primary, special, and general elections conducted by the county auditor.

(2) The county auditor may designate any precinct having fewer than two hundred active registered voters at the time of closing of voter registration as provided in RCW 29A.08.140 as a mail ballot precinct. Authorization from the county legislative authority is not required to

designate a precinct as a mail ballot precinct under this subsection. In determining the number of registered voters in a precinct for the purposes of this section, persons who are ongoing absentee voters under RCW 29A.40.040 shall not be counted. Nothing in this section may be construed as altering the vote tallying requirements of RCW 29A.60.230.

(3) The county auditor shall notify each registered voter by mail that for all future primaries and elections the voting will be by mail ballot only. The auditor shall mail each active voter a ballot at least eighteen days before a primary, general election, or special election. ((~~The auditor shall send each inactive voter either a ballot or an application to receive a ballot at least eighteen days before a primary, general election, or special election. The auditor shall determine which of the two is to be sent. If the inactive voter returns a voted ballot, the ballot shall be counted and the voter's status restored to active. If the inactive voter completes and returns an application, a ballot shall be sent and the voter's status restored to active.~~)) The requirements regarding certification, reporting, and the mailing of overseas and military ballots in RCW 29A.40.070 apply to elections conducted by mail ballot.

(4) If the county legislative authority and county auditor determine under subsection (1) of this section, or if the county auditor determines under subsection (2) of this section, to return to a polling place election environment, the auditor shall notify each registered voter, by mail, of this and shall provide the address of the polling place to be used.

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