Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Government Operations & Elections Committee

HB 1267

Brief Description: Extending the time period for voter registration.

Sponsors: Representatives Fitzgibbon, Hunt, Stanford, Appleton, Ryu, Van De Wege, Lytton, Tharinger, Hudgins, Liias, Upthegrove, Farrell, Cody, Sawyer, Jinkins, Roberts, Reykdal, Maxwell, Riccelli, Santos, Pollet, Bergquist, Hansen and Ormsby.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Allows a person to participate in an election by registering to vote online eight days before the election, or in person at the county auditor's office up to 5 p.m. on the day of the election

Hearing Date: 2/6/13

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

"Same day registration" laws allow a person to participate in an election as long as he or she registers to vote on the day of that election. Nine states have enacted same day registration laws: Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Washington law requires that in order to participate in any election, a person must register by submitting an application no later than 29 days before the day of the election or register in person at the county auditor's office no later than 8 days before the election.

Summary of Bill:

Any person not registered to vote may participate in an election if he or she submits an online application no later than 8 days before the day of the election, or registers in person at the county

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auditor's office, or other location designated by the county auditor, no later than 5 p.m. on the day of the election.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 2/6/13.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is

passed.