
HOUSE BILL 2753

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives G. Hunt, Young, Taylor, Shea, and Scott

Read first time 01/20/16. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring secrecy flaps for ballot envelopes;
2 and amending RCW 29A.40.091.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.40.091 and 2013 c 11 s 49 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The county auditor shall send each voter a ballot, a security
7 envelope in which to conceal the ballot after voting, a larger
8 envelope in which to return the security envelope, a declaration that
9 the voter must sign, and instructions on how to obtain information
10 about the election, how to mark the ballot, and how to return the
11 ballot to the county auditor.

12 (2) The voter must swear under penalty of perjury that he or she
13 meets the qualifications to vote, and has not voted in any other
14 jurisdiction at this election. The declaration must clearly inform
15 the voter that it is illegal to vote if he or she is not a United
16 States citizen; it is illegal to vote if he or she has been convicted
17 of a felony and has not had his or her voting rights restored; and it
18 is illegal to cast a ballot or sign a ballot declaration on behalf of
19 another voter. The ballot materials must provide space for the voter
20 to sign the declaration, indicate the date on which the ballot was
21 voted, and include a telephone number. Starting with the 2016 general

1 election ballot materials, the return envelope provided by the county
2 auditor must include a secrecy flap that the voter may seal to cover
3 the voter's signature and telephone number.

4 (3) For overseas and service voters, the signed declaration
5 constitutes the equivalent of a voter registration. Return envelopes
6 for overseas and service voters must enable the ballot to be returned
7 postage free if mailed through the United States postal service,
8 United States armed forces postal service, or the postal service of a
9 United States foreign embassy under 39 U.S.C. 3406.

10 (4) The voter must be instructed to either return the ballot to
11 the county auditor no later than 8:00 p.m. the day of the election or
12 primary, or mail the ballot to the county auditor with a postmark no
13 later than the day of the election or primary. Service and overseas
14 voters must be provided with instructions and a privacy sheet for
15 returning the ballot and signed declaration by fax or email. A voted
16 ballot and signed declaration returned by fax or email must be
17 received by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election or primary.

--- END ---