Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research



State Government, Elections & Information Technology Committee

HB 1468

Brief Description: Concerning voter registration.

Sponsors: Representatives Manweller, Fitzgibbon, Griffey, Hudgins, Jinkins, Haler, Riccelli, Kilduff, Pollet and Doglio; by request of Secretary of State.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes the voter registration deadline for all methods of registration to 11 days before an election or primary.
- Changes the deadline for updating a voter registration to 28 days before an election or primary.
- Directs the transfer of a voter's residential information through the new state voter registration database, when such function becomes operational.

Hearing Date: 2/3/17

Staff: Sean Flynn (786-7124).

Background:

Any eligible voter must register in order to vote in any primary, special, or general election. To be eligible to vote in an election, a voter must submit his or her registration application online or by mail no later than 29 days before the election date. A voter may also register in person at his or her county auditor's office no later than eight days before the election date.

A person may update his or her registration at least 29 days before an election for the change to be effective for that election. A voter who does not transfer his or her residential information by that deadline may still vote according to his or her previous address.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The deadline to register to vote is changed to 11 days before the date of an election or primary. This deadline includes all forms of voter registration, including in-person, mail, and online registration methods.

The deadline for updating a voter registration is changed from 29 to 28 days. An updated registration that changes a voter's residence from one county to another is transferred through the state voter registration database, when such functions become operational.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 20, 2017.

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