

HB 2008 - H AMD 1017

By Representative Hudgins

ADOPTED 02/12/2020

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.40.091 and 2019 c 161 s 3 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The county auditor shall send each voter a ballot, a security
6 envelope in which to conceal the ballot after voting, a larger
7 envelope in which to return the security envelope, a declaration that
8 the voter must sign, and instructions on how to obtain information
9 about the election, how to mark the ballot, and how to return the
10 ballot to the county auditor. Instead of sending separate return and
11 security envelopes, a county auditor may send the voter a return
12 envelope that fully shields the voter's ballot from view after the
13 voter's identifying information is removed.

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

24 (3) For overseas and service voters, the signed declaration
25 constitutes the equivalent of a voter registration. Return envelopes
26 for overseas and service voters must enable the ballot to be returned
27 postage free if mailed through the United States postal service,
28 United States armed forces postal service, or the postal service of a
29 United States foreign embassy under 39 U.S.C. 3406.

30 (4) The voter must be instructed to either return the ballot to
31 the county auditor no later than 8:00 p.m. the day of the election or
32 primary, or mail the ballot to the county auditor with a postmark no

1 later than the day of the election or primary. Return envelopes for
2 all election ballots must include prepaid postage. Service and
3 overseas voters must be provided with instructions and a privacy
4 sheet for returning the ballot and signed declaration by fax or
5 email. A voted ballot and signed declaration returned by fax or email
6 must be received by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election or primary.

7 (5) The county auditor's name may not appear on (~~the security~~
8 ~~envelope, the return~~) any envelope(~~(r)~~) or on any voting
9 instructions or materials included with the ballot if he or she is a
10 candidate for office during the same year.

11 (6) For purposes of this section, "prepaid postage" means any
12 method of return postage paid by the county or state."

13 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Updates the bill to incorporate changes made to
underlying provisions by legislation that passed in the 2019 session.

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