

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5823

As of July 23, 2019

Title: An act relating to ensuring elections integrity by requiring witnesses to ballot signature marks to identify themselves.

Brief Description: Requiring witnesses to ballot signature marks to identify themselves.

Sponsors: Senator Ericksen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections: 7/25/19.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Adds a witness declaration requirement.
- Requires a witness attestation for voters using a mark in place of a signature.
- Adds requirements for voters using a mark in place of a signature, but fail to have a witness attest.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, TRIBAL RELATIONS & ELECTIONS

Staff: Efrain Hudnell (786-7444)

Background: The state of Washington uses mail in ballots that must be signed by the individual voter before being mailed or dropped at a ballot drop off point.

Summary of Bill: County auditors are required to provide a witness declaration with voters' ballots. All persons using a mark, must also submit a declaration signed by two witnesses under penalty of perjury. A voter who fails to accompany their marks with witness attestations must either appear in person to sign before the election, or submit a declaration that is otherwise compliant.

Appropriation: None.

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.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.