
HOUSE BILL 2698

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Walsh, Goehner, Smith, Mosbrucker, and Van Werven

Read first time 01/17/20. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing participation in the presidential
2 primary; amending RCW 29A.56.050; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.56.050 and 2019 c 7 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) A major political party may, under national or state party
7 rules, base the allocation of delegates from this state to the
8 national nominating convention of that party in whole or in part on
9 ((the)):

10 (a) The participation in precinct caucuses and conventions
11 conducted under the rules of that party; or

12 (b) The results of the presidential primary, as described in this
13 section.

14 (2) If requested by a major political party, the secretary of
15 state shall adopt rules under RCW 29A.04.620 to provide for any
16 declaration required by that party.

17 (3) Voters who subscribe to a specific political party
18 declaration under this section may only vote for a candidate of that
19 party. Each list of candidates on ballots must be readily
20 distinguishable from the list of candidates for any other party.
21 Votes cast by persons making these declarations must be tabulated and

1 reported separately from other votes cast at the primary and may be
2 used by a major political party in its allocation of delegates under
3 the rules of that party.

4 (4) Voters who choose not to subscribe to a specific political
5 party declaration under this section may vote for a candidate from
6 any list of candidates, but may cast only one vote total. Votes cast
7 by persons who choose not to subscribe to a party declaration must be
8 tabulated and reported separately from the votes of persons who
9 subscribe to a party declaration. A major political party may choose
10 whether to use the votes of persons who do not subscribe to that
11 party's declaration in its allocation of delegates under the rules of
12 that party.

13 (5) For a political party that requires a specific voter
14 declaration under this section, the secretary of state shall
15 prescribe rules for providing, to the state and county committees of
16 that political party, a copy of the declarations or a list of the
17 voters who ((~~participated in the presidential nominating process~~))
18 subscribed to the declaration of that party.

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
21 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
22 effect immediately.

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