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HOUSE BILL 1554

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, McLean, Miller, Tate, R. Fisher, Paris and Jacobsen.

Read first time February 1, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to voter registration verification procedures; and  
2 amending RCW 29.10.180.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.10.180 and 1989 c 261 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) The county auditor may contract with the Unites States postal  
7 service, or its licensee, for use of change-of-address information. If  
8 a voter is found to have changed his or her residence address, the  
9 auditor shall send a notification to the voter.

10           (2) Whenever any vote-by-mail ballot, notification to voters  
11 following reprecincting of the county, notification to voters of  
12 selection to serve on jury duty, notification under subsection (1) of  
13 this section, or initial voter identification card is returned by the  
14 postal service as undeliverable, the county auditor shall, in every  
15 instance, inquire into the validity of the registration of that voter.

1        ~~((2))~~ (3) The county auditor shall initiate his or her inquiry by  
2 sending, by first-class mail, a written notice to the challenged voter  
3 at the address indicated on the voter's permanent registration record  
4 and to any other address at which the county auditor could reasonably  
5 expect mail to be received by the voter. The county auditor shall not  
6 request any restriction on the forwarding of such notice by the postal  
7 service. The notice shall contain the nature of the inquiry and  
8 provide a suitable form for reply. The notice shall also contain a  
9 warning that the county auditor must receive a response within forty-  
10 five days from the date of mailing or the individual's voter  
11 registration will be canceled.

12        ~~((3))~~ (4) The voter, in person or in writing, may state that the  
13 information on the permanent voter registration record is correct or  
14 may request a change in the address information on the permanent  
15 registration record no later than the forty-fifth day after the date of  
16 mailing the inquiry.

17        ~~((4))~~ (5) Upon the timely receipt of a response signed by the  
18 voter, the county auditor shall consider the inquiry satisfied and will  
19 make any address corrections requested by the voter on the permanent  
20 registration record. The county auditor shall cancel the registration  
21 of a voter who fails to respond to the notice of inquiry within forty-  
22 five days after the date of mailing.

23        ~~((5))~~ (6) The county auditor shall notify any voter whose  
24 registration has been canceled by sending, by first class mail, a  
25 written notice to the address indicated on the voter's permanent  
26 registration record and to any other address to which the original  
27 inquiry was sent. Upon receipt of a satisfactory voter response, the  
28 auditor shall reinstate the voter.

29        ~~((6))~~ (7) A voter whose registration has been canceled under this  
30 section and who offers to vote at the next ensuing election shall be

1 issued a questioned ballot. Upon receipt of such a questioned ballot  
2 the auditor shall investigate the circumstances surrounding the  
3 original cancellation. If he or she determines that the cancellation  
4 was in error, the voter's registration shall be immediately reinstated,  
5 and the voter's questioned ballot shall be counted. If the original  
6 cancellation was not in error, the voter shall be afforded the  
7 opportunity to reregister at his or her correct address, and the  
8 voter's questioned ballot shall not be counted.