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HOUSE BILL 1715

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Rasmussen, Brumsickle, Haugen, Bowman, Dorn, Paris and Sheldon.

Read first time February 6, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to nonpartisan sheriffs; amending RCW 29.18.010,  
2 29.21.010, 29.21.015, and 29.21.070; and providing an effective date.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.18.010 and 1990 c 59 s 78 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Candidates for the following offices shall be nominated at partisan  
7 primaries held pursuant to the provisions of this chapter:

8 (1) Congressional offices;

9 (2) All state offices except (a) judicial offices and (b) the  
10 office of superintendent of public instruction;

11 (3) All county offices except (a) judicial offices, (b) sheriff,  
12 and ~~((b))~~ (c) those offices where a county home rule charter provides  
13 otherwise.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.21.010 and 1990 c 59 s 89 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       All city and town primaries shall be nonpartisan. Primaries for  
4 special purpose districts, except those districts that require  
5 ownership of property within the district as a prerequisite to voting,  
6 shall be nonpartisan. Primaries for the office of county sheriff shall  
7 be nonpartisan. City, town, county sheriff, and district primaries  
8 shall be held as provided in RCW 29.13.070.

9       The purpose of this section is to establish the holding of a  
10 primary, subject to the exemptions in RCW 29.21.015, as a uniform  
11 procedural requirement to the holding of city, town, county sheriff,  
12 and district elections. These provisions supersede any and all other  
13 statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different  
14 election requirements.

15       **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.21.015 and 1990 c 59 s 90 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17       No primary may be held for any single position in any county, city,  
18 town, or district, as required by RCW 29.21.010, if, after the last day  
19 allowed for candidates to withdraw, there are no more than two  
20 candidates filed for the position. The county auditor shall, as soon  
21 as possible, notify all the candidates so affected that the office for  
22 which they filed will not appear on the primary ballot. Names of  
23 candidates so notified shall be printed upon the general election  
24 ballot in the manner specified by RCW 29.30.025.

25       **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.21.070 and 1990 c 59 s 91 are each amended to read  
26 as follows:

27       The offices of superintendent of public instruction, justice of the  
28 supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, judge of the superior

1 court, (~~and~~) judge of the district court, and county sheriff shall be  
2 nonpartisan and the candidates therefor shall be nominated and elected  
3 as such.

4 All city, town, and special purpose district elective offices shall  
5 be nonpartisan and the candidates therefor shall be nominated and  
6 elected as such.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act shall take effect on July 1,  
8 1992.