

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1880

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections, February 22, 2010

Title: An act relating to ballot envelopes.

Brief Description: Concerning ballot envelopes.

Sponsors: Representatives Armstrong, Hunt, Appleton, Alexander and Nelson.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/04/09, 93-2; 2/03/10, 90-0.

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 3/24/09, 3/26/09 [DPA];
2/22/10 [DPA].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Fairley, Chair; Oemig, Vice Chair; Roach, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, McDermott, Pridemore and Swecker.

Staff: Edward Redmond (786-7471)

Background: County auditors are required to send each absentee voter (voter) a ballot, security envelope, and larger return envelope. Voters must print their name and address on the return envelope and sign a declaration that they are qualified to vote. The return envelopes must have a secrecy flap that voters may seal to cover their signature and optional telephone number.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments): Secrecy flaps are not required for return envelopes. The return envelopes may provide secrecy for the voter's signature and optional telephone number.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (Recommended Amendments): Updates an expired statute. Adds an emergency clause.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill: PRO: The committee did pass the Senate companion of this bill. This bill is a cost saving measure for the counties. Snohomish County, for example, would realize \$22,000 in savings annually, and King County would realize \$50,000 in savings annually.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Carolyn Weikel, Snohomish County Washington State Auditors Association.