Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Government Operations & Elections Committee

HB 1211

Brief Description: Concerning primary election voters' pamphlets.

Sponsors: Representatives Alexander, Hunt, Jinkins, Fitzgibbon, Kagi, Haler, Haigh, Bergquist, Ryu and Upthegrove; by request of Secretary of State.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Requires the Secretary of State to print and distribute a voters' pamphlet for the primary election in even-numbered years and for the general election each year.

Hearing Date: 1/29/13

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

The Secretary of State (Secretary) is required to print and distribute a voters' pamphlet for the general election whenever at least one statewide measure or office will appear on the ballot. There is no requirement to print and distribute a voters' pamphlet for a primary. A voters' pamphlet must be distributed to each household in the state, to public libraries, or to other locations deemed appropriate. The pamphlet may also be made available in electronic form.

Summary of Bill:

Voters' pamphlets must be printed and distributed for the primary in each even-numbered year and for the general election every year.

Provisions relating to the contents of a primary voters' pamphlet related to the pick-a-party primary are repealed.

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.

House Bill Analysis - 1 - HB 1211

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is

passed.

House Bill Analysis - 2 - HB 1211