

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1211

As Reported by House Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections

Title: An act relating to primary election voters' pamphlets.

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 History:

Committee Activity:

Government Operations & Elections: 1/29/13, 2/5/13 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Hunt, Chair; Bergquist, Vice Chair; Buys, Ranking Minority Member; Taylor, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Carlyle, Fitzgibbon, Kristiansen, Manweller, Orwall and Van De Wege.

Staff: Marsha Reilly (786-7135).

Background:

The Secretary of State 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.

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.

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Provisions relating to the contents of a primary voters' pamphlet related to the pick-a-party primary are repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) It is very important to print a primary pamphlet in a primary election. Citizens depend on the voters' pamphlet for information regarding candidates and issues. Currently voters are not receiving voters' pamphlets in a primary in even-numbered years. A primary voters' pamphlet was available in 2004 and 2008. A bill will be introduced in the near future that will provide \$600,000 in savings.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Alexander, prime sponsor; and Lori Augino, Office of the Secretary of State.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.