

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2448

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### As Reported By House Committee On:

Government Operations

**Title:** An act relating to independent candidates.

**Brief Description:** Allowing independent candidates to withdraw from the general election.

**Sponsors:** Representatives D. Sommers, Hargrove, Sheahan, McMahan, Sterk, Silver, Crouse and Mulliken.

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Government Operations: 1/26/96, 2/2/96 [DPS].

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Reams, Chairman; Cairnes, Vice Chairman; Goldsmith, Vice Chairman; Rust, Ranking Minority Member; Scott, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Conway; R. Fisher; Hargrove; Honeyford; Hymes; Mulliken; Scheuerman; D. Schmidt; Van Luven and Wolfe.

**Staff:** Scott White (786-7153).

**Background:** Provisions are established relating to the administration of elections with regards to ballots and the withdrawal of candidates.

Existing law allows a candidate to withdraw his or her declaration of candidacy by filing a signed request stating as such by the close of business on the Thursday following the last day for candidates to file.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** An independent candidate who is qualified to appear on the general election ballot for a partisan elective office may withdraw his or her candidacy and have his or her name not printed on the general election ballot by filing a signed request stating as such by the close of business on the second Friday after the primary election.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The deadline for an independent candidate to withdraw is changed from the third to the second Friday after the primary.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** An independent candidate does not have the ability to withdraw after a primary election, and thus remove his or her name from the general election ballot.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Representative Duane Sommers, prime sponsor; and Phil Harris, Spokane County.