

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2448

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].

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.