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SENATE BILL 5163

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Winsley, Haugen and Spanel

Read first time 01/12/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to candidates filing for election; amending RCW  
2 29.15.020, 29.15.120, 29.15.160, 29.27.020, and 29.42.050; and  
3 repealing RCW 29.18.150.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.15.020 and 1990 c 59 s 81 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 Except where otherwise provided by this title, declarations of  
8 candidacy for the following offices shall be filed during regular  
9 business hours with the filing officer no earlier than the ((~~fourth~~))  
10 second Monday in July and no later than the ((~~following~~)) second Friday  
11 after the first day of filing in the year in which the office is  
12 scheduled to be voted upon:

13 (1) Offices that are scheduled to be voted upon for full terms or  
14 both full terms and short terms at, or in conjunction with, a state  
15 general election; and

16 (2) Offices where a vacancy, other than a short term, exists that  
17 has not been filled by election and for which an election to fill the  
18 vacancy is required in conjunction with the next state general  
19 election.

1 This section supersedes all other statutes that provide for a  
2 different filing period for these offices.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.15.120 and 1994 c 223 s 6 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 A candidate may withdraw his or her declaration of candidacy at any  
6 time before the close of business on the (~~Thursday following the~~)  
7 last day for candidates to file under RCW 29.15.020 by filing, with the  
8 officer with whom the declaration of candidacy was filed, a signed  
9 request that his or her name not be printed on the ballot. There shall  
10 be no withdrawal period for declarations of candidacy filed during  
11 special filing periods held under this title. The filing officer may  
12 permit the withdrawal of a filing for the office of precinct committee  
13 officer at the request of the candidate at any time if no absentee  
14 ballots have been issued for that office and the general election  
15 ballots for that precinct have not been printed. The filing officer  
16 may permit the withdrawal of a filing for any elected office of a city,  
17 town, or special district at the request of the candidate at any time  
18 before a primary if the primary ballots for that city, town, or special  
19 district have not been ordered. No filing fee may be refunded to any  
20 candidate who withdraws under this section. Notice of the deadline for  
21 withdrawal of candidacy and that the filing fee is not refundable shall  
22 be given to each candidate at the time he or she files.

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.15.160 and 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 120 s 9 are each  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 A void in candidacy for a nonpartisan office occurs when an  
26 election for such office, except for the short term, has been scheduled  
27 and (~~no valid declaration of candidacy has been filed for the position~~  
28 ~~or~~) all persons filing (~~such~~) valid declarations of candidacy have  
29 died or been disqualified.

30 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.27.020 and 1990 c 59 s 8 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 On or before the day following the last day for (~~political parties~~  
33 ~~to fill vacancies in the ticket as provided by RCW 29.18.150~~) filing,  
34 the secretary of state shall certify to each county auditor a list of  
35 the candidates who have filed declarations of candidacy in his or her  
36 office for the primary. For each office, the certificate shall include

1 the name of each candidate, his or her address, and his or her party  
2 designation, if any.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.42.050 and 1991 c 363 s 34 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 The statutory requirements for filing as a candidate at the  
6 primaries shall apply to candidates for precinct committee officer  
7 (~~except that the filing period for this office alone shall be extended~~  
8 ~~to and include the Friday immediately following the last day for~~  
9 ~~political parties to fill vacancies in the ticket as provided by RCW~~  
10 ~~29.18.150,~~) and the office shall not be voted upon at the primaries,  
11 but the names of all candidates must appear under the proper party and  
12 office designations on the ballot for the general November election for  
13 each even-numbered year and the one receiving the highest number of  
14 votes shall be declared elected: PROVIDED, That to be declared  
15 elected, a candidate must receive at least ten percent of the number of  
16 votes cast for the candidate of the candidate's party receiving the  
17 greatest number of votes in the precinct. Any person elected to the  
18 office of precinct committee officer who has not filed a declaration of  
19 candidacy shall pay the fee of one dollar to the county auditor for a  
20 certificate of election. The term of office of precinct committee  
21 officer shall be for two years, commencing upon completion of the  
22 official canvass of votes by the county canvassing board of election  
23 returns. Should any vacancy occur in this office by reason of death,  
24 resignation, or disqualification of the incumbent, or because of  
25 failure to elect, the respective county chair of the county central  
26 committee shall be empowered to fill such vacancy by appointment:  
27 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in legislative districts having a majority of  
28 its precincts in a county with a population of one million or more,  
29 such appointment shall be made only upon the recommendation of the  
30 legislative district chair: PROVIDED, That the person so appointed  
31 shall have the same qualifications as candidates when filing for  
32 election to such office for such precinct: PROVIDED FURTHER, That when  
33 a vacancy in the office of precinct committee officer exists because of  
34 failure to elect at a state general election, such vacancy shall not be  
35 filled until after the organization meeting of the county central  
36 committee and the new county chair selected as provided by RCW  
37 29.42.030.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    RCW 29.18.150 and 1990 c 59 s 102, 1977  
2    ex.s. c 329 s 12, & 1965 c 9 s 29.18.150 are each repealed.

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