
SENATE BILL 6561

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Snyder, Winsley and Hale

Read first time 01/17/96. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the presidential primary; and amending RCW
2 29.19.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.19.020 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 20 s 1 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) On the fourth Tuesday in May of each year in which a president
7 of the United States is to be nominated and elected, a presidential
8 primary shall be held at which voters may vote for the nominee of a
9 major political party for the office of president. The secretary of
10 state may propose an alternative date for the primary no later than the
11 first day of August of the year before the year in which a president is
12 to be nominated and elected.

13 (2) No later than the first day of September of the year before the
14 year in which a presidential nominee is selected, the state committee
15 of any major political party that will use the primary results for
16 candidates of that party may propose an alternative date for that
17 primary.

18 (3) If an alternative date is proposed under subsection (1) or (2)
19 of this section, a committee consisting of the chair and the vice-chair

1 of the state committee of each major political party, the secretary of
2 state, the majority leader and minority leader of the senate, and the
3 speaker and the minority leader of the house of representatives shall
4 meet and, if affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the
5 committee, the date of the primary shall be changed. The committee
6 shall meet and decide on the proposed alternate date not later than the
7 first day of October of the year before the year in which a
8 presidential nominee is selected. The secretary of state shall convene
9 and preside over the meeting of the committee. A committee member
10 other than a legislator may appoint, in writing, a designee to serve on
11 his or her behalf. A legislator who is a member of the committee may
12 appoint, in writing, another legislator to serve on his or her behalf.

13 (4) If an alternate date is approved under this section, the
14 secretary of state shall adopt rules under RCW 29.19.070 to adjust the
15 deadlines in RCW 29.19.030 and related provisions of this chapter to
16 correspond with the date that has been approved.

17 (5) No later than the 31st day of December of the year before the
18 year in which a presidential nominee is selected, the state committee
19 of each major political party in the state shall submit to the
20 secretary of state a statement that the state delegation for that party
21 to its national convention the next year shall cast their votes on the
22 first ballot to select a presidential nominee, so that the percentage
23 of the state's delegates' votes for each candidate whose name is, in
24 fact, placed in nomination, is as nearly equal as possible to the
25 percentage of votes for all candidates of that party which that
26 candidate received in the presidential primary. The statement must
27 also provide that if votes are cast in the presidential primary for
28 candidates whose names are not subsequently placed in nomination at the
29 national convention, a percentage of the state's delegates' votes as
30 nearly equal as possible to the percentage of presidential primary
31 votes for all candidates of that party cast for those candidates whose
32 names are not placed in nomination shall not be bound to any particular
33 candidate on the first ballot to select a presidential nominee at the
34 national convention. The statement required by this subsection must be
35 accompanied by copies of resolutions and amendments to bylaws and rules
36 adopted in accordance with that party's procedures reflecting its
37 agreement. If a statement and supporting documentation as required by
38 this subsection are not received by the secretary of state from each
39 major political party, the secretary of state, on the first working day

1 of January of the year in which a presidential nominee is selected,
2 shall cancel the presidential preference primary for that year and make
3 a public announcement to that effect.

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