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HOUSE BILL 1563

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Smith, Koster, Dunn, Sherstad, Carrell, Zellinsky, D. Sommers, L. Thomas, B. Thomas, Hickel, Talcott, Bush, Wensman and Scott

Read first time 01/30/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring voters to show identification when  
2 voting at polling places; and amending RCW 29.51.060 and 29.10.125.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.51.060 and 1990 c 59 s 41 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 If any person appears to vote at any primary or election as a  
7 registered voter in the jurisdiction where the primary or election is  
8 being held, the precinct election officers shall require the voter to  
9 show identification to the precinct election officers that the precinct  
10 election officers feel is sufficient to identify the person as being  
11 the registered voter under whose name the person is trying to vote and  
12 to sign his or her name and current address subject to penalties of  
13 perjury in one of the precinct lists of registered voters. If the  
14 person registered using a mark or can no longer sign his or her name,  
15 the election officers shall require the person offering to vote to be  
16 identified by another registered voter. Identification may be shown by  
17 means of a Washington state driver's license, identicard issued by the  
18 department of licensing under RCW 46.20.117, United States passport, or

1 United States military identification. A precinct election officer may  
2 challenge a person's right to vote under RCW 29.10.125.

3 As soon as it is determined that the person is qualified to vote,  
4 one of the precinct election officers shall enter the voter's name in  
5 a second poll book.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.10.125 and 1987 c 288 s 1 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 Registration of a person as a voter is presumptive evidence of his  
9 or her right to vote at any primary or election, general or special.  
10 A person's right to vote may be challenged at the polls only by a  
11 precinct election officer. A challenge may be made only upon the  
12 belief or knowledge of the challenging officer that the voter is  
13 unqualified, except that a precinct election officer may make a  
14 challenge if the person, when attempting to vote under RCW 29.51.060,  
15 fails to show identification that the precinct officer feels is  
16 sufficient to identify the person as being the registered voter under  
17 whose name the person is trying to vote. The challenge must be  
18 supported by evidence or testimony given to the county canvassing board  
19 under RCW 29.10.127 and may not be based on unsupported allegations or  
20 allegations by anonymous third parties. The identity of the  
21 challenger, and any third person involved in the challenge, shall be  
22 public record and shall be announced at the time the challenge is made.

23 Challenges initiated by a registered voter must be filed not later  
24 than the day before any primary or election, general or special, at the  
25 office of the appropriate county auditor. A challenged voter may  
26 properly transfer or reregister until three days before the primary or  
27 election, general or special, by applying personally to the county  
28 auditor.

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