

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1534

Relating to allocating electors.

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/10/99

Reps Dunshe & Romero

Sponsor(s)

Staff Scot MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7106

BACKGROUND:

The state shall allocate electors to electors for senators and representatives. Each major party and any minor independent party holds a convention under chapter 29.24 RCW that nominates candidates for president and vice-president to elect electors for the state. Electors are required to vote for the candidates nominated by the party. Under the existing system the candidates that receive a majority of the votes receive all of the electors for the state.

SUMMARY:

Electors for president and vice-president shall be allocated based on the proportion of the state-wide vote. The allocation must be made in whole numbers only with fractions half greater being rounded up and fractions less than half being rounded down. If total electors exceed the state allotment, the rounding process will be adjusted as follows:

- The candidate with the smallest fraction proportion above one-half will be reduced to the lower whole number and allocated among the candidates that remain;
- If this reduction does not reduce total allocated electors to the state allotment, even when the remaining candidate with the smallest fraction proportion above one-half is reduced to the next lowest whole number and allocated among the remaining candidates that remain;
- Successive adjustments to the lowest remaining fraction proportion above one-half will be made and the allocation done until the number of electors allocated equals the number of electors allotted to the state.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.