

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bil Analysis

Bil No. HB 1540

Relating elections

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/9/99

Reps D. Schmid and Romero

Sponsor (s)

Staff Scot MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7106

BACKGROUND:

The Secretary of State is the chief election officer of the state and is authorized to adopt rules relating to election administration that are necessary to carry out the provisions of the state statutes.

County auditors are the local election officials who conduct elections throughout the counties.

SUMMARY:

Each county auditor is required to develop election procedures manual for the county that is organized clearly and written in text that is easily understood. Copies of the manual must be distributed to the public upon request. The Secretary of State is to prepare a manual by providing modern manual describing general election procedures.

Numerous matters are required to be described in the manual including:

- A discussion of different types of ballots and how they are processed and tabulated;
- The electronic system used by the county;
- How a voter's registration may be challenged;
- How votes are canvassed and certified by the county canvassing board;
- Writing and the tallying of write-in votes;
- When and how a true duplicate copy of a ballot is made;
- The appointment of observers by major political parties;
- Appeals to a canvassing board;
- Recounting votes.

FISCANOTE: Not requested.

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