

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1594

Relating to study of on-line voting.

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/10/99

Reps Ruderman, Schmidt

Sponsor(s)

Staff Scot MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7106

BACKGROUND:

Alvoting currently by direct ballot, by absentee ballot.

SUMMARY:

A task force would be assembled by the Secretary of State to study the issues and challenges presented by incorporating the Internet into the voting process. Within the study, the Secretary of State must

- a) create an advisory committee composed of county election staff, technical experts, and other experts to assist the task force with research;
- b) determine the appropriate security measures required and minimum standards for certification systems, and make recommendations concerning statutes to be adopted to implement the system; and
- c) consider the impact of on-line (Internet) voting on participation, public accessibility, potential external influences on the election process, and issues related to conducting and administering the election.

The Secretary of State must report to the legislature by March, 2000 and the task force must report by June 30, 2001.

At the Secretary's discretion and in conjunction with the state auditor, limited access may be permitted to validate the accuracy, integrity, and security of on-line (Internet) voting.

FISCANOTE: Requested

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session which it passed.