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SENATE BILL 6091

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles and Oke

Read first time 02/20/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the blanket primary; and amending RCW 29.18.200,  
2 29.30.081, 29.42.010, 29.62.010, and 29.62.090.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.18.200 and 1990 c 59 s 88 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 Except as provided otherwise in chapter 29.19 RCW, primaries for  
7 partisan offices must be conducted as blanket primaries with private  
8 choice under the following procedures:

9 (1) A voter may indicate an affiliation with a party or  
10 identification as an independent voter, but all properly registered  
11 voters may still vote for their choice ((at any primary held under this  
12 title,)) for any candidate for each office, regardless of political  
13 affiliation ((and without a declaration of political faith or adherence  
14 on the part of the voter));

15 (2) Each voter determines in private, without any public disclosure  
16 at the polls, the candidates he or she chooses to vote for; and

17 (3) Each voter, without regard to any partisan or independent  
18 identification he or she made when voting for partisan offices, may  
19 vote for all nonpartisan offices and ballot measures on the ballot.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.30.081 and 1990 c 59 s 13 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) On the top of each ballot there shall be printed instructions  
4 directing the voters how to mark the ballot, including write-in votes.  
5 Next shall appear the following direction: "First, please indicate the  
6 political party of which you consider yourself to be a member, or  
7 choose 'Independent'." After the instructions and before the offices  
8 shall be placed the questions of adopting constitutional amendments or  
9 any other state measure authorized by law to be submitted to the voters  
10 at that election.

11       (2) The candidate or candidates of the major political party which  
12 received the highest number of votes from the electors of this state  
13 for the office of president of the United States at the last  
14 presidential election shall appear first following the appropriate  
15 office heading, the candidate or candidates of the other major  
16 political parties shall follow according to the votes cast for their  
17 nominees for president at the last presidential election, and  
18 independent candidates and the candidate or candidates of all other  
19 parties shall follow in the order of their qualification with the  
20 secretary of state.

21       (3) The names of candidates for president and vice-president for  
22 each political party shall be grouped together with a single response  
23 position for a voter to indicate his or her choice.

24       (4) All paper ballots and ballot cards shall be sequentially  
25 numbered in such a way to permit removal of such numbers without  
26 leaving any identifying marks on the ballot.

27       **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.42.010 and 1977 ex.s. c 329 s 16 are each amended  
28 to read as follows:

29       Each political party organization shall have the power to:

30       (1) Make its own rules and regulations;

31       (2) Call conventions;

32       (3) Elect delegates to conventions, state and national;

33       (4) Designate candidates to appear on the primary ballot under  
34 rules filed with the secretary of state at least sixty days before the  
35 primary;

36       (5) Fill vacancies on the ticket in accordance with RCW 29.18.150;

37       (~~(5)~~) (6) Provide for the nomination of presidential electors;

38 and

1       (~~(6)~~) (7) Perform all functions inherent in such an  
2 organization(~~(: PROVIDED, That only major political parties shall have~~  
3 ~~the power to designate candidates to appear on the state primary~~  
4 ~~election ballot as provided in RCW 29.18.150 as now or hereafter~~  
5 ~~amended)~~).

6       **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.62.010 and 1990 c 59 s 62 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8       Every canvassing board or officer responsible for canvassing and  
9 certifying the returns of any primary or election shall:

10       (1) Adopt administrative rules to facilitate and govern the  
11 canvassing process in that jurisdiction;

12       (2) For each primary and election, prepare and sign a statement of  
13 the returns for each office, candidate, and issue voted on in that  
14 jurisdiction, categorized by the party or independent affiliation  
15 indicated by voters;

16       (3) If, at a partisan primary, two or more candidates of the same  
17 party receive the greatest, and identical, number of votes for an  
18 office, resolve the tie vote by lot;

19       (4) If, at a nonpartisan or judicial primary, two or more  
20 candidates receive the second greatest, and identical, number of votes  
21 for that office or position, resolve the tie vote by lot.

22       **Sec. 5.** RCW 29.62.090 and 1999 c 298 s 21 are each amended to read  
23 as follows:

24       (1) Immediately after the official results of a state primary or  
25 general election in a county are ascertained, the county auditor or  
26 other election officer shall make an abstract of the number of  
27 registered voters in each precinct and of all the votes cast in the  
28 county at such state primary or general election for and against state  
29 measures and for each candidate for federal, state, and legislative  
30 office or for any other office which the secretary of state is required  
31 by law to canvass, categorized by the party or independent affiliation  
32 indicated by voters. The abstract shall be entered on blanks furnished  
33 by the secretary of state or on compatible computer printouts approved  
34 by the secretary of state, and transmitted to the secretary of state no  
35 later than the next business day following the certification by the  
36 county canvassing board.

1       (2) After each general election, the county auditor or other  
2 election officer shall provide to the secretary of state a report of  
3 the number of absentee ballots cast in each precinct for and against  
4 state measures and for each candidate for federal, state, and  
5 legislative office or for any other office which the secretary of state  
6 is required by law to canvass. The report may be included in the  
7 abstract required by this section or may be transmitted to the  
8 secretary of state separately, but in no event later than March 31 of  
9 the year following the election. Absentee ballot results may be  
10 incorporated into votes cast at the polls for each precinct or may be  
11 reported separately on a precinct-by-precinct basis.

12       (3) If absentee ballot results are not incorporated into votes cast  
13 at the polls, the county auditor or other election official may  
14 aggregate results from more than one precinct if the auditor, pursuant  
15 to rules adopted by the secretary of state, finds that reporting a  
16 single precinct's absentee ballot results would jeopardize the secrecy  
17 of a person's ballot. To the extent practicable, precincts for which  
18 absentee results are aggregated shall be contiguous.

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