H-0329.1

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**HOUSE BILL 1023**

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**State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Appleton and Gregerson

AN ACT Relating to one candidate primaries; and amending RCW 29A.52.112.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 29A.52.112 and 2014 c 7 s 1 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A primary is a first stage in the public process by which voters elect candidates to public office.

(2) Whenever candidates for a partisan office are to be elected, the general election must be preceded by a primary conducted under this chapter. Based upon votes cast at the primary, the top two candidates will be certified as qualified to appear on the general election ballot, unless only one candidate qualifies as provided in RCW 29A.36.170.

(3) No primary may be held for any single county partisan office to fill an unexpired term if, after the last day allowed for candidates to withdraw, only one candidate has filed for the position.

(4) For partisan office, if a candidate has expressed a party preference on the declaration of candidacy, then that preference will be shown after the name of the candidate on the primary and general election ballots as set forth in rules of the secretary of state. A candidate may choose to express no party preference. Any party preferences are shown for the information of voters only and may in no way limit the options available to voters.

(5) No primary may be held for any single position in any partisan primary if, after the last day allowed for candidates to withdraw, only one candidate files for the position. The county auditor must, as soon as possible, notify the candidate so affected that the office for which he or she filed will not appear on the primary ballot.

**--- END ---**