
Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee

SB 5162

Brief Description: Clarifying qualifications for jury service.

Sponsors: Senators Dhingra, Pedersen, Wellman, Das, Keiser, Palumbo, Carlyle, Darneille, Hasegawa, Saldaña and Kuderer.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defines "civil rights restored" to mean a person's right to vote has been provisionally or permanently restored prior to jury service.
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Hearing Date: 3/13/19

Staff: Ingrid Lewis (786-7289).

Background:

A jury is a body of persons temporarily selected from the qualified inhabitants of a particular district and vested with the power to present or indict a person for a public offense or try a question of fact. Jurors are randomly selected from a jury source list made up of the list of registered voters, licensed drivers, and identicard holders in each county. A person is qualified to be a juror if that person is over the age of 18, a United States citizen, a resident of the county of service, and able to communicate in English. If a person has ever been convicted of a felony, the person must have had their civil rights restored.

For persons convicted of a felony in a Washington court, the right to vote is restored provisionally so long as the person is not under the authority of the Department of Corrections (DOC). A person is "under the authority of the DOC" if the person is serving a sentence of confinement in the custody of the DOC or is subject to community custody. For persons convicted of a felony in a federal court or any state court other than a Washington court, the right to vote is restored so long as he or she is no longer incarcerated. A provisional right to vote may be revoked for failure to pay legal financial obligations.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The right to vote may be permanently restored if the person meets the current statutory requirements for restoration of voting rights for each felony conviction by:

- a certificate of discharge issued by the sentencing court;
- a court order restoring the right;
- a final order of discharge issued by the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board; or
- a certificate of restoration issued by the governor.

Summary of Bill:

"Civil rights restored" is defined to mean a person's right to vote has been provisionally or permanently restored prior to jury service.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.