

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1509

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS,  
APRIL 2, 1991

**Brief Description:** Expanding eligibility for ongoing absentee voter status.

**SPONSORS:** Representatives Anderson, McLean, Miller, Bowman, Haugen, Pruitt and Paris; by request of Secretary of State.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators McCaslin, Chairman; Roach, Vice Chairman; Matson, and Sutherland.

**Staff:** Martin Lovinger (786-7443)

**Hearing Dates:** March 26, 1991; April 2, 1991

**BACKGROUND:**

Under current law a disabled voter or a voter over the age of 65 may choose to be an ongoing absentee ballot voter. A voter's status as an ongoing absentee ballot voter is valid from the time of application until January 1 of the next odd-numbered year when the auditor must send the voter an application to renew the ongoing status. This status is also terminated by: the written request of the voter; the death or disqualification of the voter; the cancellation of the voter's registration record; or the return of an ongoing absentee ballot as being undeliverable.

**SUMMARY:**

Any registered voter may choose to vote by absentee ballot on an ongoing basis. A person's status as an ongoing absentee ballot voter no longer automatically terminates on January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** available

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SENATE AMENDMENT:**

Status as an ongoing absentee ballot voter is available only to a voter who is: (1) disabled; (2) over 60 years of age; (3) the spouse of a person who is currently an ongoing

absentee voter; or (4) absent from his or her place of residence for extended periods of time due to his or her employment.

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

This bill extends ongoing absentee voter status to more people. It is beneficial to voters whose employment requires that they be absent from their residence.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Representative Cal Anderson, prime sponsor; Bill Donahue, Spokane County Auditor