

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1715

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS,
FEBRUARY 19, 1992

Brief Description: Making the office of sheriff nonpartisan.

SPONSORS: House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Rasmussen, Brumsickle, Haugen, Bowman, Dorn, Paris and Sheldon).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators McCaslin, Chairman; Madsen, and Sutherland.

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Hearing Dates: March 25, 1991; February 19, 1992

BACKGROUND:

The office of county sheriff is a partisan office under current law.

SUMMARY:

The office of county sheriff is to be a nonpartisan office unless the position is declared to be partisan by the county's home rule charter. All elections for county sheriff are nonpartisan unless a county's home rule charter declares the position to be partisan.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested

Effective Date: July 1, 1992

TESTIMONY FOR:

Duties of the office should have nothing to do with partisan politics; this will help attract people based on their professional qualifications.

TESTIMONY AGAINST:

There are many offices that could be made nonpartisan. Why pick on the Sheriff's Office?

TESTIFIED: PRO: James K. Week, Okanogan County Sheriff; Daniel LaRoche, Douglas County Sheriff; Gary Montgomery, Thurston County Sheriff; CON: Bob Nix, Lewis County Republican Central Committee