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**SENATE BILL 5137**

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**State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senators M. Rasmussen, Deccio, Erwin, Moyer, A. Smith, Haugen, Prince, Spanel, McCaslin, Winsley, von Reichbauer and Oke

Read first time 01/14/93.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1            AN ACT Relating to nonpartisan sheriffs; amending RCW 29.18.010,  
2 29.21.010, 29.21.015, and 29.21.070; and providing an effective date.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.18.010 and 1990 c 59 s 78 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            Candidates for the following offices shall be nominated at partisan  
7 primaries held pursuant to the provisions of this chapter:

8            (1) Congressional offices;

9            (2) All state offices except (a) judicial offices and (b) the  
10 office of superintendent of public instruction;

11            (3) All county offices except (a) judicial offices, (b) sheriff,  
12 except in a county for which the position is declared to be a partisan  
13 office by the county's home rule charter, and ~~((b))~~ (c) those offices  
14 where a county home rule charter provides otherwise.

15            **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.21.010 and 1990 c 59 s 89 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17            All city and town primaries shall be nonpartisan. Primaries for  
18 special purpose districts, except those districts that require

1 ownership of property within the district as a prerequisite to voting,  
2 shall be nonpartisan. Primaries for the office of county sheriff shall  
3 be nonpartisan except in a county for which the position is declared  
4 to be a partisan office by the county's home rule charter. City, town,  
5 county sheriff, and district primaries shall be held as provided in RCW  
6 29.13.070.

7 The purpose of this section is to establish the holding of a  
8 primary, subject to the exemptions in RCW 29.21.015, as a uniform  
9 procedural requirement to the holding of city, town, county sheriff,  
10 and district elections. These provisions supersede any and all other  
11 statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different  
12 election requirements.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.21.015 and 1990 c 59 s 90 are each amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 No primary may be held for any single position in any city, town,  
16 or district or for the nonpartisan position of county sheriff, as  
17 required by RCW 29.21.010, if, after the last day allowed for  
18 candidates to withdraw, there are no more than two candidates filed for  
19 the position. The county auditor shall, as soon as possible, notify  
20 all the candidates so affected that the office for which they filed  
21 will not appear on the primary ballot. Names of candidates so notified  
22 shall be printed upon the general election ballot in the manner  
23 specified by RCW 29.30.025.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.21.070 and 1990 c 59 s 91 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26 The offices of superintendent of public instruction, justice of the  
27 supreme court, judge of the court of appeals, judge of the superior  
28 court, and judge of the district court shall be nonpartisan and the  
29 candidates therefor shall be nominated and elected as such. Except in  
30 a county for which the position of sheriff is declared to be a partisan  
31 office by the county's home rule charter, the office of county sheriff  
32 shall be nonpartisan and the candidates therefor shall be nominated and  
33 elected as such.

34 All city, town, and special purpose district elective offices shall  
35 be nonpartisan and the candidates therefor shall be nominated and  
36 elected as such.

1      NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    This act shall take effect on July 1, 1994.

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