

1 **SB 5267** - H COMM AMD

2 By Committee on Government Operations

3 On page 2, after line 23, strike all of section 2 and insert:

4 "Sec. 2. RCW 29.51.170 and 1988 c 181 s 5 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 For any office at any election or primary, any voter may write  
7 in on the ballot the name of any person for an office who has filed  
8 as a write-in candidate for the office in the manner provided by  
9 RCW 29.04.180 and such vote shall be counted the same as if the  
10 name had been printed on the ballot and marked by the voter. No  
11 write-in vote made for any person who has not filed a declaration  
12 of candidacy pursuant to RCW 29.04.180 is valid if that person  
13 filed for the same office, either as a regular candidate or a  
14 write-in candidate, at the preceding primary. Any abbreviation  
15 used to designate office, position, or political party shall be  
16 accepted if the canvassing board can determine, to their  
17 satisfaction, the voter's intent.

18 Write-in votes cast for an office need not be tallied if,  
19 assuming all of these write-in votes were cast for the same person,  
20 the write-in votes could not have altered the outcome of the  
21 primary or election.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.51.170 shall be recodified as a section in  
23 chapter 29.62 RCW."

24 Correct the title.

**EFFECT:** Clarifies that write-in votes need not be tallied if  
the write-in votes could not have altered the outcome of the  
primary or election. Inserts this language into a section of  
law relating to the counting of write-in votes and recodifies  
this section into the chapter of law relating to canvassing  
votes.