

2 **SHB 1233** - S AMD - 309  
3 By Senators Cantu and Schow

4 NOT ADOPTED 4/10/95

5 On page 3, after line 16, insert the following:

6 "Sec. 4. RCW 29.36.060 and 1991 c 81 s 32 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 The ~~((opening and subsequent processing))~~ verification of  
9 signatures on return envelopes for any primary or election may begin on  
10 or after the tenth day prior to such primary or election. The opening  
11 of the return and security envelopes and tabulation of absentee ballots  
12 shall not commence until after 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the day of the  
13 primary or election.

14 After ~~((opening))~~ verification of signatures on the return  
15 envelopes, the county canvassing board shall count and place all of the  
16 ~~((ballot))~~ returned envelopes unopened, and the verified count of those  
17 envelopes, in containers ~~((that can be))~~ secured with numbered seals.  
18 These sealed containers shall be stored in a secure location until  
19 after 8:00 o'clock p.m. of the day of the primary or election.  
20 ~~((Absentee ballots that are to be tabulated on an electronic vote~~  
21 ~~tallying system may be taken from the inner envelopes and all the~~  
22 ~~normal procedural steps may be performed to prepare these ballots for~~  
23 ~~tabulation before sealing the containers.))~~

24 The canvassing board shall examine the postmark, statement, and  
25 signature on each return envelope containing the security envelope and  
26 absentee ballot. They shall verify that the voter's signature is the  
27 same as that in the registration files for that voter. For absentee  
28 voters other than out-of-state voters, overseas voters, and service  
29 voters, if the postmark is illegible, the date on the return envelope  
30 to which the voter attests shall determine the validity, as to the time  
31 of voting, of that absentee ballot under this chapter. For any  
32 absentee voter, a variation between the signature of the voter on the  
33 return envelope and that in the registration files due to the  
34 substitution of initials or the use of common nicknames is permitted so  
35 long as the surname and handwriting are clearly the same."

