HOUSE BILL 2484

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State of Washington   **59th Legislature**   **2006 Regular Session**

By Representatives Hunter, Nixon and Springer

Prefiled 1/6/2006.   Read first time 01/09/2006.   Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1   AN ACT Relating to making changes to the partisan primary ballot
2 format; and amending RCW 29A.36.104 and 29A.36.106.

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

4   **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.36.104 and 2004 c 271 s 126 are each amended to
5 read as follows:
6   Partisan primaries must be conducted using either((÷)) a
7 consolidated ballot format or a physically separate ballot format.
8   (1) A consolidated ballot format ((that)) must include((s)) a major
9 political party identification check-off box that allows a voter to
10 select from a list of the major political parties the major political
11 party with which the voter chooses to affiliate. It must also include
12 a check-off box that allows the voter to indicate that he or she is
13 voting only the nonpartisan races and ballot measures.   The
14 consolidated ballot must include all partisan races, nonpartisan races,
15 and ballot measures to be voted on at that primary((; or)).
16   (2) A physically separate ballot format ((that)) must include((s
17 both)) all party ballots and a nonpartisan ballot. A party ballot must
18 be specific to a particular major political party and may include only
19 the partisan offices to be voted on at that primary and the names of

1 candidates for those partisan offices who designated that same major
2 political party in their declarations of candidacy. The nonpartisan
3 ballot must include all nonpartisan races and ballot measures to be
4 voted on at that primary.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.36.106 and 2004 c 271 s 127 are each amended to
6 read as follows:
7 (1) If the consolidated ballot format is used, the major political
8 party identification check-off box must appear on the primary ballot
9 before all offices and ballot measures. Clear and concise instructions
10 to the voter must be prominently displayed immediately before the list
11 of major political parties, and must include:
12 (a) A question asking the voter to indicate the major political
13 party with which the voter chooses to affiliate or if the voter prefers
14 to vote nonpartisan races and ballot measures only;
15 (b) A statement that, for a major political party candidate, only
16 votes cast by voters who choose to affiliate with that same major
17 political party will be tabulated and reported;
18 (c) A statement that votes cast for a major political party
19 candidate by a voter who chooses to affiliate with a different major
20 political party will not be tabulated or reported;
21 (d) A statement that votes cast for a major political party
22 candidate by a voter who fails to select a major political party
23 affiliation will not be tabulated or reported;
24 (e) A statement that votes cast for a major political party
25 candidate by a voter who selects more than one major political party
26 with which to affiliate will not be tabulated or reported; ((and))
27 (f) A statement that the party identification option will not
28 affect votes cast for candidates for nonpartisan offices, or for or
29 against ballot measures; and
30 (g) A statement that votes cast for partisan races will not be
31 tabulated or reported if a voter checks the box indicating that he or
32 she is voting only the nonpartisan races and ballot measures.
33 (2) If the physically separate ballot format is used, clear and
34 concise instructions to the voter must be prominently displayed, and
35 must include:
36 (a) A statement explaining that only one party ballot and one
37 nonpartisan ballot may be voted;

1   (b) A statement explaining that if more than one party ballot is
2 voted, none of the party ballots will be tabulated or reported;
3   (c) A statement explaining that a voter's affiliation with a major
4 political party will be inferred from the act of voting the party
5 ballot for that major political party; and
6   (d) A statement explaining that every eligible registered voter may
7 vote a nonpartisan ballot, regardless of any party affiliation on the
8 part of the voter.

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