

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 1031

Chapter 182, Laws of 2011

62nd Legislature
2011 Regular Session

BALLOT ENVELOPES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/22/11

Passed by the House February 23, 2011
Yeas 96 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 8, 2011
Yeas 41 Nays 7

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved April 29, 2011, 3:05 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 1031** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

Chief Clerk

FILED

April 29, 2011

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 1031

Passed Legislature - 2011 Regular Session

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Armstrong, Orwall, Johnson, Crouse, Appleton, Condotta, Eddy, Clibborn, Haler, Ormsby, Nealey, Klippert, Miloscia, Fagan, Alexander, Taylor, Bailey, Angel, Finn, Warnick, Rodne, Orcutt, Walsh, Pearson, Green, McCoy, McCune, Schmick, Smith, Goodman, Asay, Ross, Blake, Short, Kagi, Hope, Takko, Kristiansen, Reykdal, Frockt, Ladenburg, Rolfes, Shea, Hunt, Hurst, and Moeller

Prefiled 12/14/10. Read first time 01/10/11. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to ballot envelopes; and amending RCW 29A.40.091.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.40.091 and 2010 c 125 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 The county auditor shall send each voter a ballot, a security
6 envelope in which to ((seal)) conceal the ballot after voting, a larger
7 envelope in which to return the security envelope, and instructions on
8 how to mark the ballot and how to return it to the county auditor. The
9 instructions that accompany a ballot for a partisan primary must
10 include instructions for voting the applicable ballot style, as
11 provided in chapter 29A.36 RCW. The voter's name and address must be
12 printed on the larger return envelope, which must also contain a
13 declaration by the voter reciting his or her qualifications and stating
14 that he or she has not voted in any other jurisdiction at this
15 election, together with a summary of the penalties for any violation of
16 any of the provisions of this chapter. The declaration must clearly
17 inform the voter that it is illegal to vote if he or she is not a
18 United States citizen; it is illegal to vote if he or she has been
19 convicted of a felony and has not had his or her voting rights

1 restored; and, except as otherwise provided by law, it is illegal to
2 cast a ballot or sign a return envelope on behalf of another voter.
3 The return envelope must provide space for the voter to indicate the
4 date on which the ballot was voted and for the voter to sign the oath.
5 It must also contain a space so that the voter may include a telephone
6 number. A summary of the applicable penalty provisions of this chapter
7 must be printed on the return envelope immediately adjacent to the
8 space for the voter's signature. The signature of the voter on the
9 return envelope must affirm and attest to the statements regarding the
10 qualifications of that voter and to the validity of the ballot. The
11 return envelope may provide secrecy for the voter's signature and
12 optional telephone number. For overseas and service voters, the signed
13 declaration on the return envelope constitutes the equivalent of a
14 voter registration for the election or primary for which the ballot has
15 been issued. The voter must be instructed to either return the ballot
16 to the county auditor by whom it was issued or attach sufficient first-
17 class postage, if applicable, and mail the ballot to the appropriate
18 county auditor no later than the day of the election or primary for
19 which the ballot was issued.

20 If the county auditor chooses to forward ballots, he or she must
21 include with the ballot a clear explanation of the qualifications
22 necessary to vote in that election and must also advise a voter with
23 questions about his or her eligibility to contact the county auditor.
24 This explanation may be provided on the ballot envelope, on an enclosed
25 insert, or printed directly on the ballot itself. If the information
26 is not included, the envelope must clearly indicate that the ballot is
27 not to be forwarded and that return postage is guaranteed.

Passed by the House February 23, 2011.

Passed by the Senate April 8, 2011.

Approved by the Governor April 29, 2011.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 29, 2011.