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HOUSE BILL 1520

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Morgan, Hudgins, Rude, Mead, Stonier, Frame, Riccelli, Appleton, Pellicciotti, Kilduff, Doglio, and Reeves

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to calendar election dates on ballot envelopes;  
2 and amending RCW 29A.40.091.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.40.091 and 2016 c 83 s 3 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The county auditor shall send each voter a ballot, a security  
7 envelope in which to conceal the ballot after voting, a larger  
8 envelope in which to return the security envelope, a declaration that  
9 the voter must sign, and instructions on how to obtain information  
10 about the election, how to mark the ballot, and how to return the  
11 ballot to the county auditor. The larger envelope must state the  
12 calendar date of the election.

13 (2) The voter must swear under penalty of perjury that he or she  
14 meets the qualifications to vote, and has not voted in any other  
15 jurisdiction at this election. The declaration must clearly inform  
16 the voter that it is illegal to vote if he or she is not a United  
17 States citizen; it is illegal to vote if he or she has been convicted  
18 of a felony and has not had his or her voting rights restored; and it  
19 is illegal to cast a ballot or sign a ballot declaration on behalf of  
20 another voter. The ballot materials must provide space for the voter

1 to sign the declaration, indicate the date on which the ballot was  
2 voted, and include a telephone number.

3 (3) For overseas and service voters, the signed declaration  
4 constitutes the equivalent of a voter registration. Return envelopes  
5 for overseas and service voters must enable the ballot to be returned  
6 postage free if mailed through the United States postal service,  
7 United States armed forces postal service, or the postal service of a  
8 United States foreign embassy under 39 U.S.C. 3406.

9 (4) The voter must be instructed to either return the ballot to  
10 the county auditor no later than 8:00 p.m. the day of the election or  
11 primary, or mail the ballot to the county auditor with a postmark no  
12 later than the day of the election or primary. Service and overseas  
13 voters must be provided with instructions and a privacy sheet for  
14 returning the ballot and signed declaration by fax or email. A voted  
15 ballot and signed declaration returned by fax or email must be  
16 received by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election or primary.

17 (5) The county auditor's name may not appear on the security  
18 envelope, the return envelope, or on any voting instructions or  
19 materials included with the ballot if he or she is a candidate for  
20 office during the same year.

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