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SENATE BILL 5108

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Senators Padden, Billig, Miloscia, Hasegawa, and Chase

Read first time 01/14/15.            Referred to Committee on Government  
Operations & State Security.

1            AN ACT Relating to the order of candidate names on ballots;  
2 amending RCW 29A.52.220; and adding a new section to chapter 29A.36  
3 RCW.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    A new section is added to chapter 29A.36  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7            (1) At primaries, the county auditor shall prepare as many sets  
8 of ballots as there are candidates in the office or position in which  
9 there are the greatest number of candidates. On an initial set of  
10 ballots, the names of candidates shall be arranged in the order  
11 determined under RCW 29A.36.131. On each subsequent set of ballots,  
12 the candidates for federal offices, state offices, county partisan  
13 offices, and judicial offices in the first position under the office  
14 heading shall be moved to the last position under that office  
15 heading, and each other name shall be moved up to the position  
16 immediately above its previous position under that office  
17 heading. The county auditor shall prepare as nearly as possible an  
18 equal number of ballots after each change. However, the same order of  
19 candidates for all offices shall appear on every ballot in a  
20 precinct, as required by RCW 29A.36.111(1). The effect of this  
21 rotation of the order of the names shall be that the name of each

1 candidate for an office or position shall appear first, second, and  
2 so forth for that office or position on the ballots of a nearly equal  
3 number of registered voters in that jurisdiction.

4 (2) If no primary is held for the office of the superintendent of  
5 public instruction or for a judicial office because two candidates  
6 have filed for the position, the names of those candidates on the  
7 general election ballot shall be rotated in accordance with  
8 subsection (1) of this section.

9 (3) The names of candidates for city, town, and district office  
10 on the ballot at the primary shall not be rotated.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.52.220 and 2013 c 195 s 1 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (1)(a) No primary may be held for any single position in any  
14 nonpartisan office if, after the last day allowed for candidates to  
15 withdraw, there are no more than two candidates filed for the  
16 position. The county auditor shall as soon as possible notify all the  
17 candidates so affected that the office for which they filed will not  
18 appear on the primary ballot.

19 (b) If no primary is held for the office of the superintendent of  
20 public instruction or for a judicial office because two candidates  
21 have filed for the position, the names of those candidates on the  
22 general election ballot shall be rotated in accordance with section 1  
23 of this act.

24 (2) No primary may be held for the office of commissioner of a  
25 park and recreation district or for the office of cemetery district  
26 commissioner.

27 (3) Names of candidates for offices that do not appear on the  
28 primary ballot shall be printed upon the general election ballot in  
29 the manner specified by RCW 29A.36.131.

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