

support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect on July 1, 1973.

Passed the House March 7, 1973.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1973.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 20, 1973.

CHAPTER 140

[House Bill No. 402]

ABSENTEE BALLOTS--COUNTING PROCEDURES

AN ACT Relating to the counting of absentee ballots; adding a new section to chapter 29.36 RCW; and amending section 29.36.060, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.36.060.

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

Section 1. Section 29.36.060, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.36.060 are each amended to read as follows:

The opening(~~(; counting)~~) and canvassing of absentee ballots cast at any primary or election, special or general, may begin on or after the tenth day (~~(after)~~) prior to such primary or election (~~(is held but)~~): PROVIDED, That the opening of the inner envelopes and actual counting of such absentee ballots shall not commence until after 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the day of the primary or election but must be completed on or before the tenth day following the primary or election: PROVIDED, That when a state general election is held, the canvassing period shall be extended to and including the fifteenth day following such election.

This section shall supersede the provisions of any and all other statutes, whether general or special in nature, having different dates for counting and canvassing of absentee ballots.

The canvassing board or its duly authorized representatives shall examine the postmark, receipt mark and statement on the outer envelope containing the absentee ballot and verify that the voter's signature thereon is the same as that on the original application. The board then shall open each outer envelope postmarked or received (if not delivered by mail) not later than the primary or election day and upon which the statement has been executed according to law in such a way as not to mar the statement, and remove therefrom the inner envelope containing the ballot.

The inner envelopes shall be initialed by the canvassing board or its duly authorized representatives. The inner envelopes thus initialed must be filed by the county auditor under lock and key.

The outer envelopes to which must be attached the corresponding original absentee voters' certificates shall be sealed securely in one package and shall be kept by the auditor for future use in case any question should arise as to the validity of the vote.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 29.36 RCW a new section to read as follows:

As an alternative to the procedure set forth in section 1 of this 1973 amendatory act, the county canvassing board, or its duly authorized representatives, may elect not to initial the inner envelope but instead place all such envelopes in containers that can be secured with a numbered metal seal and such sealed containers shall be stored in the most secure vault available within the courthouse until after 8:00 o'clock p.m. of the day of the primary or election: PROVIDED, That in the instance of punchcard absentee ballots, such ballots may be taken from the inner envelopes and all the normal procedural steps performed necessary to prepare punchcard ballots for computer count and then placed in said sealed containers.

Passed the House March 3, 1973.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1973.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 20, 1973.

CHAPTER 141

[House Bill No. 404]

DISCRIMINATION--SEX BASIS--CREDIT--
INSURANCE--PROHIBITED

AN ACT Relating to the laws against discrimination; amending section 1, chapter 183, Laws of 1949 as last amended by section 1, chapter 167, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 49.60.010; amending section 12, chapter 183, Laws of 1949 as amended by section 2, chapter 37, Laws of 1957 and RCW 49.60.020; amending section 2, chapter 183, Laws of 1949 as last amended by section 2, chapter 167, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 49.60.030; amending section 3, chapter 183, Laws of 1949 as last amended by section 3, chapter 167, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 49.60.040; amending section 8, chapter 270, Laws of 1955 as last amended by section 1, chapter 81, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 49.60.120; amending section 9, chapter 270, Laws of 1955 as amended by section 2, chapter 81, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 49.60.130; amending section 1, chapter 68, Laws of 1959 and RCW 49.60.175; amending section 9, chapter 37, Laws of 1957 as last amended by section 3, chapter 81,