

for payment of principal and interest on bonds issued pursuant to the provisions of RCW 67.28.150 through 67.28.160.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 2. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Passed the Senate March 20, 1985.

Passed the House April 15, 1985.

Approved by the Governor May 10, 1985.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 10, 1985.

## CHAPTER 273

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 3854]  
ONGOING ABSENTEE VOTERS

AN ACT Relating to absentee voting; amending RCW 29.36.010; and adding new sections to chapter 29.36 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 29.36.010, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 1, chapter 27, Laws of 1984 and RCW 29.36.010 are each amended to read as follows:

Any duly registered voter may vote an absentee ballot for any primary or election in the manner provided in this chapter.

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and section 2 of this 1985 act, a registered voter desiring to cast an absentee ballot must apply in writing to his or her county auditor no earlier than forty-five days nor later than the day ((prior to)) before any election or primary((~~PROVIDED, That~~)).

(2) An application honored for a primary ballot shall also be honored as an application for a ballot for the following general election if the voter so indicates on his or her application((~~PROVIDED FURTHER, That~~)).

(3) A voter admitted to a hospital no earlier than five days before a primary or election and confined to the hospital on election day may apply by messenger for an absentee ballot on the day of the primary or election if a signed statement from the hospital administrator, or designee, verifying the voter's date of admission and status as a patient in the hospital on the day of the primary or election is attached to the absentee ballot application.

(4) Such applications must contain the voter's signature and may be made in person ((or)), by mail, or messenger((~~PROVIDED, That no~~)). An application for an absentee ballot shall not be approved unless the voter's signature upon the application compares favorably with the voter's signature upon his ((permanent)) or her registration record.

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

Any disabled voter or any voter over the age of sixty-five may apply, in writing, for status as an ongoing absentee voter. Each such voter shall be granted that status by his or her county auditor and shall automatically receive an absentee ballot for each ensuing election for which he or she is entitled to vote and need not submit a separate application for each election. Ballots received from ongoing absentee voters shall be validated, processed, and tabulated in the same manner as other absentee ballots.

Status as an ongoing absentee voter shall be terminated upon any of the following events:

- (1) The written request of the voter;
- (2) The death or disqualification of the voter;
- (3) The cancellation of the voter's registration record;
- (4) The return of an ongoing absentee ballot as undeliverable; or
- (5) January 1st of each odd-numbered year.

A disabled voter is defined as a voter qualifying for special parking privileges under RCW 46.16.381(1).

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 29.36 RCW to read as follows:

As soon as practical following the first day of January of each odd-numbered year, the county auditor shall notify each ongoing absentee voter of the termination of his or her status as such a voter under section 2(5) of this act. Included with this notice shall be a postage prepaid return form permitting any such voter to renew his or her status as an ongoing absentee voter. Upon receipt and signature verification of the renewal form, the county auditor shall continue to provide absentee ballots to such voters, subject to the provisions of section 2 of this act.

Passed the Senate April 22, 1985.

Passed the House April 15, 1985.

Approved by the Governor May 10, 1985.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 10, 1985.

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## CHAPTER 274

[House Bill No. 832]

### WORLD FAIR COMMISSION

AN ACT Relating to the world fair commission; adding a new section to chapter 43.96D RCW; and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 43.96D RCW to read as follows: