BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: Z-0933.2/10 2nd draft

ATTY/TYPIST: AI:ean

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Concerning overseas and service voters.
AN ACT Relating to overseas and service voters; amending RCW 29A.40.150; and adding a new section to chapter 29A.40 RCW.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 29A.40.150 and 2009 c 415 s 12 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) An overseas or service voter may receive a ballot by fax, e-mail, or other electronic means. An overseas or service voter may return a voted ballot by fax or e-mail if the voter's signature on the declaration accompanies the ballot. The county auditor must establish procedures to protect the secrecy of the voted ballot.

(2) An overseas or service voter may request to receive all future ballots by fax, e-mail, or other available electronic means. An overseas or service voter may also request to terminate receiving ballots by postal mail.

(3) The instructions for overseas voters and service voters must include the contact information for the county auditor's office and must explain that:

(a) Return postage is free if the ballot is mailed through...
the United States postal service, United States armed forces postal
service, or the postal service of a United States foreign embassy;
   ((2)))  (b) The date of the signature is considered the date of
mailing;
   ((3)))  (c) The ((envelope)) declaration must be signed ((by)) no
later than election day;
   ((4)))  (d) If the voter is not already registered to vote, the
signed declaration (on the envelope) is the equivalent of voter
registration;
   ((5)))  (e) A voter may ((fax a voted ballot and the accompanying
envelope if the voter agrees to waive secrecy. The ballot will be
counted if the original documents are received before certification of
the election)) request to receive all future ballots by fax, e-mail, or
other available electronic means; ((and
   (6) A voter may obtain a ballot via electronic mail, which the
voter may print out, vote, and return by mail. In order to facilitate
the electronic acquisition of ballots by overseas and service voters,
the ballot instructions shall include the web site of the office of the
secretary of state)) (f) A voter may return a ballot and signed
declarations by fax or e-mail; and
   (g) A voter may contact the county auditor's office to confirm that
the ballot was received.

NEW SECTION.  Sec. 2.  A new section is added to chapter 29A.40 RCW
to read as follows:

An overseas or service voter may register to vote, request a
ballot, or transmit a ballot using forms or methods provided by the
United States department of defense or the United States election
assistance commission.

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