
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1571

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Jones, McLean, Anderson, Hargrove, Ferguson, Phillips and Jacobsen).

Read first time February 22, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to recounting votes; amending RCW 29.64.015; adding
2 a new section to chapter 29.64 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 repealing RCW 29.64.050.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is in the
6 public interest to determine the winner of close contests for elective
7 offices as expeditiously and as accurately as possible. It is the
8 purpose of this act to provide procedures which promote the prompt and
9 accurate recounting of votes for elective offices and which provide
10 closure to the recount process.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.64.015 and 1987 c 54 s 4 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

1 (1) If the official canvass of all of the returns for any office at
2 any primary or election reveals that the difference in the number of
3 votes cast for a candidate apparently nominated or elected to any
4 office and the number of votes cast for the closest apparently defeated
5 opponent is not more than one-half of one percent of the total number
6 of votes cast for both candidates, the county canvassing board shall
7 conduct(~~(, or the secretary of state shall direct the appropriate~~
8 ~~county canvassing boards to conduct,~~) a recount of all votes cast on
9 that position.

10 (a) Whenever such a difference occurs in the number of votes cast
11 for candidates for a position which appears on the ballot in more than
12 one county, the secretary of state shall, within three business days of
13 the day that the returns of the primary or election are first certified
14 by the canvassing boards of those counties, direct those boards to
15 recount all votes cast on the position.

16 (b) Whenever the difference in the number of votes cast for such
17 candidates is less than one-fourth of one percent of the total number
18 of votes cast for both candidates, the votes shall be recounted
19 manually.

20 (2) A mandatory recount shall be conducted in the manner provided
21 by RCW 29.64.020, 29.64.030, and 29.64.040. No cost of a mandatory
22 recount may be charged to any candidate.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 29.64 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 (1) The following applies to an office or ballot measure for a
26 jurisdiction which is entirely within one county: After the results of
27 a primary or election for the office or on the measure have been
28 certified by the county's canvassing board, votes cast for the office

1 or on the measure in any single precinct may not be recounted more than
2 once.

3 (2) The following applies to a state-wide office or ballot measure
4 or an office or measure of a jurisdiction or district which encompasses
5 territory in more than one county: After the results of a primary or
6 election for the office or on the measure have been certified by the
7 secretary of state, the votes cast for the office or on the measure in
8 any single precinct may not be recounted more than once.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.64.050 and 1990 c 59 s 67 & 1965
10 c 9 s 29.64.050 are each repealed.