
HOUSE BILL 1816

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Cheney, McClintock, Robertson, Schmidt, and Waters

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the forwarding of election
2 ballots; and adding a new section to chapter 29A.40 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.40
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided under subsection (2) of this section, a
7 county auditor may not use any postal service endorsements that would
8 allow ballots to be forwarded. A county auditor must use the proper
9 endorsement to instruct the postal service to not forward a ballot to
10 any other address and to return to the auditor any ballot that is not
11 deliverable. Upon receipt of a returned ballot that was not
12 deliverable, if no updated address information was received from the
13 voter, a county auditor must immediately place the voter on inactive
14 status and send the voter a confirmation notice to all known
15 addresses.

16 (2) A county auditor must use the appropriate postal service
17 endorsements that would allow ballots to be forwarded for service and
18 overseas voters.

19 (3) The secretary of state must include in the state voters'
20 pamphlet, and county auditors must include in the local voters'
21 pamphlet, information providing notice to voters that, in accordance

1 with this section, their ballots will no longer be forwarded by the
2 postal service unless they are a service or overseas voter.

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