
SENATE BILL 5662

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Finkbeiner, Brown and Winsley; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 02/01/1999. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to a study of on-line voting; creating new
2 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The secretary of state shall assemble a task
5 force to conduct a study of the issues and challenges presented by
6 incorporating on-line and Internet technologies in the voting process.
7 These issues may include the use of on-line technology within existing
8 systems and the requirements for authorization of collection, storage,
9 and processing of electronically generated and transmitted digital
10 messages to permit any eligible person to vote in any election,
11 including applying for and casting an absentee ballot.

12 In conducting the study, the secretary of state shall do all of the
13 following:

14 (1) Create, and be assisted by, an advisory committee, who serves
15 at the pleasure of the secretary of state, composed of county election
16 staff, technical experts, and such other individuals whom the secretary
17 deems to have expertise in these issues, to research the issues and
18 challenges presented by incorporating on-line and Internet technologies
19 into the voting process;

1 (2) Determine and define the appropriate security measures required
2 and minimum standards for certification of systems, and make
3 recommendations concerning statutes and rules to be adopted in order to
4 implement the system;

5 (3) Consider the impact of an on-line or Internet voting system on
6 voter participation rates, public accessibility, potential external
7 influences during the elections process, and other issues related to
8 the conduct and administration of elections.

9 The secretary of state shall report in writing to the legislature
10 no later than March 1, 2000, on the results of the study required by
11 this section.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** At the secretary's discretion, the office of
13 the secretary of state, in conjunction with one or more county
14 auditors, may permit limited elections for the purposes of validating
15 the accuracy, integrity, and security of on-line or Internet voting.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act expire June 30,
17 2001.

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