

SENATE BILL 6131

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senator Kline

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to providing modern voting and ballot processing  
2 systems; and adding new sections to chapter 29.33 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 29.33 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The voting systems modernization account is established in the  
7 custody of the state treasurer. . . . . dollars must be  
8 transferred from the state general fund to this account on the first  
9 day of each fiscal year. Expenditures from the account may be used  
10 only for assisting county auditors to acquire and use modern voting  
11 systems and modern ballot processing systems, as provided in section 2  
12 of this act. Only the secretary of state may authorize expenditures  
13 from the account. The account is not subject to allotment procedures  
14 under chapter 43.88 RCW, and an appropriation is not required for  
15 expenditures.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29.33 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

1       The secretary of state shall establish a program to assist county  
2 auditors to acquire and use modern voting systems and modern ballot  
3 processing systems from moneys in the voting systems modernization  
4 account created under section 1 of this act. The program will consist  
5 of providing grants to county auditors and providing staff assistance  
6 for county auditors. Grants from this account may be used by county  
7 auditors to: (1) Purchase modern voting systems approved by the  
8 secretary of state under this chapter to replace punch card voting  
9 systems or provide additional modern voting systems for counties  
10 already using modern voting systems; (2) purchase modern ballot  
11 processing systems, including systems for absentee ballots and mail  
12 ballots; (3) finance the operation and programming of modern voting  
13 systems and modern ballot processing systems; and (4) provide adequate  
14 space for counties to process and tabulate ballots using modern ballot  
15 processing systems and modern voting systems in a timely manner. Staff  
16 assistance will consist of staff who program modern voting systems and  
17 modern ballot processing systems and who train county staff on  
18 programming and operating modern voting systems and modern ballot  
19 processing systems.

20       Modern voting systems are vote tallying systems approved by the  
21 secretary of state under this chapter that are capable of providing  
22 multiple voting methods, including optical scan voting systems, touch  
23 screen voting systems, and Internet voting systems, also including  
24 similar poll-site ballot counting devices and systems for transmitting  
25 unofficial returns from poll-site ballot counting devices to central  
26 reporting or counting locations. Modern ballot processing systems  
27 include systems that read bar codes on outer return envelopes for  
28 absentee ballots and mail ballots, digitize signatures of registered  
29 voters, and present digitized signatures on screens for staff to  
30 compare voter signatures with signatures on the outer return envelopes  
31 for absentee ballots and mail ballots.

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