

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1106

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections, March 25, 2003

Title: An act relating to the secretary of state.

Brief Description: Authorizing the secretary of state to observe county election facilities.

Sponsors: Representatives Bush, Haigh, Kenney, Miloscia, McDonald, Campbell, Cox, Edwards, Clements, Veloria, Wood, Pearson, Schindler, Mielke, Woods, Sullivan, Shabro, Roach, Benson, Buck, Condotta, Talcott, Priest, Sump, Carrell, Anderson, Lantz, Schoesler, Darneille, Nixon, Kagi, Boldt, Lovick, McDermott, Pflug, McCoy, Upthegrove and McMahan.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 3/25/03 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Roach, Chair; Stevens, Vice Chair; Horn, Kastama and McCaslin.

Staff: Diane Smith (786-7410)

Background: The Office of Secretary of State currently operates the Certification and Training Program, which was created in 1992. The major responsibilities of the program are: (a) training and certification; (b) election assistance and clearinghouses; and (c) review process.

A review of county election procedures may be done at the request of a county auditor, the Secretary of State, or when a recount is required for a statewide or legislative race. The review may be a full review, which covers all aspects of election administration in a county, or it may be a partial review.

Summary of Bill: The Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division, may make unannounced visits to county election offices and facilities to observe handling, processing, counting or tabulation of ballots.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This measure will increase voter confidence by having an explicit statutory authorization for unannounced visits to county elections by the State Auditor's Election Division.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Bush, prime sponsor (pro).