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SENATE BILL 5587

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Senators Fairley, Keiser, Kline, Winsley, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/31/2003.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1            AN ACT Relating to voter accessibility; and adding a new section to  
2 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            (1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules and establish  
7 standards for voting technology and systems used by the state or any  
8 political subdivision to be accessible for individuals with  
9 disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for the blind and  
10 visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for  
11 access and participation, including privacy and independence, as other  
12 voters.

13            (2) At each polling location, at least one voting unit certified by  
14 the secretary of state shall provide access to individuals who are  
15 blind or visually impaired.

16            (3) Compliance with subsection (2) of this section is contingent on  
17 available funds to implement this provision.

18            (4) Compliance with this provision in regard to voting technology

1 and systems purchased prior to the effective date of this section shall  
2 be achieved at the time of procurement of an upgrade or replacement of  
3 existing voting equipment or systems.

4 (5) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

5 (a) "Accessible" includes receiving, using, selecting, and  
6 manipulating voter data and controls.

7 (b) "Nonvisual" includes synthesized speech, Braille, and other  
8 output methods.

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