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SENATE BILL 5747

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Schmidt, Finkbeiner, Poulsen, Esser, Stevens and Eide

Read first time 02/10/2003. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to supervision of elections in charter counties;  
2 and amending RCW 36.16.030.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.16.030 and 1996 c 108 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided elsewhere in this section, in every county  
7 there shall be elected from among the qualified voters of the county a  
8 county assessor, a county auditor, a county clerk, a county coroner,  
9 three county commissioners, a county prosecuting attorney, a county  
10 sheriff, and a county treasurer(~~(, except that)~~).

11 (2) In each county with a population of less than forty thousand no  
12 coroner shall be elected and the prosecuting attorney shall be ex  
13 officio coroner. Whenever the population of a county increases to  
14 forty thousand or more, the prosecuting attorney shall continue as ex  
15 officio coroner until a coroner is elected, at the next general  
16 election at which the office of prosecuting attorney normally would be  
17 elected, and assumes office as provided in RCW 29.04.170. In any  
18 county where the population has once attained forty thousand people and  
19 a current coroner is in office and a subsequent census indicates less

1 than forty thousand people, the county legislative authority may  
2 maintain the office of coroner by resolution or ordinance. If the  
3 county legislative authority has not passed a resolution or enacted an  
4 ordinance to maintain the office of coroner, the elected coroner shall  
5 remain in office for the remainder of the term for which he or she was  
6 elected, but no coroner shall be elected at the next election at which  
7 that office would otherwise be filled and the prosecuting attorney  
8 shall be the ex officio coroner. In a county with a population of two  
9 hundred fifty thousand or more, the county legislative authority may  
10 replace the office of coroner with a medical examiner system and  
11 appoint a medical examiner as specified in RCW 36.24.190.

12 (3) A noncharter county may have five county commissioners as  
13 provided in RCW 36.32.010 and 36.32.055 through 36.32.0558.

14 (4) A charter county that operates under the authority of its  
15 charter shall elect, pursuant to the general elections laws of the  
16 state, that person responsible for supervising all primaries and  
17 elections, general or special, within the county under Title 29 RCW.

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