
HOUSE BILL 2531

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Nixon, Dunn and Talcott

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing guidelines for the signature
2 verification process in elections; and amending RCW 29A.04.530.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.530 and 2005 c 243 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The secretary of state shall:

7 (1) Establish and operate, or provide by contract, training and
8 certification programs for state and county elections administration
9 officials and personnel, including training on the various types of
10 election law violations and discrimination, and training programs for
11 political party observers which conform to the rules for such programs
12 established under RCW 29A.04.630;

13 (2)(a) Establish guidelines, in consultation with state and local
14 law enforcement or certified document examiners, for signature
15 verification processes. The guidelines shall include the following
16 information:

17 (i) When a person attempts to imitate another person's signature,
18 he or she typically attempts to copy the most obvious features, such as

1 size, capital letters, and slant and, as a result, heightened scrutiny
2 should be given to unusual ways of writing;

3 (ii) When a person attempts to imitate another person's signature,
4 such an attempt typically includes indications of a lack of fluency,
5 such as: Writing that is stilted; has tremor; has unnatural stops and
6 starts; has patching where the writer goes back and attempts to repair
7 what was previously written; or lacks regularity or consistency;

8 (iii) Natural writing often has pressure that alternates, such as
9 light upstrokes and dark downstrokes;

10 (iv) In evaluating spacing, the reviewer must consider: The amount
11 of horizontal space taken up by each letter; space between letters,
12 punctuation, and words; height or size of letters, including
13 proportions relating to uppercase letters, lowercase letters, and lower
14 loops; and placement of the signature on any signature line and whether
15 the signature is indented on the line; and

16 (v) In evaluating the form of the signature, the reviewer must
17 consider the shape of letters and punctuation, including strokes that
18 begin and end a word or letter, strokes that connect letters to each
19 other, and the shape and placement of other strokes.

20 (b) All election personnel assigned to verify signatures must
21 receive training on the guidelines;

22 (3) Administer tests for state and county officials and personnel
23 who have received such training and issue certificates to those who
24 have successfully completed the training and passed such tests;

25 (4) Maintain a record of those individuals who have received such
26 training and certificates; and

27 (5) Provide the staffing and support services required by the board
28 created under RCW 29A.04.510.

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