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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2594**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability (originally sponsored by Representatives Hasegawa, McCoy, Santos, Pettigrew, Kenney, Hudgins, Upthegrove, Hunt, O'Brien, Haigh, Kagi and Dickerson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to bilingual voting assistance; creating new  
2 sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to create a task  
5 force to effectuate the legislature's intent to enact section 203 of  
6 the voting rights act.

7 This section expires January 31, 2007.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A joint select legislative task force on  
9 increasing voter participation for single-language minority groups is  
10 established, with members as provided in this subsection.

11 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each  
12 of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

13 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
14 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
15 representatives.

16 (c) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of  
17 representatives jointly shall appoint members from each of the  
18 following groups:

1 (i) Two members representing county auditors or election directors  
2 in counties that are required to provide election materials in a  
3 language other than English. One of these members shall be from a  
4 county required to provide election materials in Chinese, and one shall  
5 be from a county required to provide election materials in Spanish;

6 (ii) Four representatives from bilingual communities;

7 (iii) Two representatives from an organization with expertise with  
8 section 203 of the voting rights act;

9 (iv) One representative of an organization that has expertise in  
10 civil liberties.

11 (d) The office of the secretary of state shall cooperate with the  
12 task force and maintain a liaison representative, who shall be a  
13 nonvoting member. The office shall cooperate with the task force and  
14 provide information as the cochairs may reasonably request.

15 (e) Appointments under this subsection must be made within thirty  
16 days of the effective date of this section.

17 (f) The task force shall choose its cochairs from among its  
18 legislative membership.

19 (2) The task force shall:

20 (a) Make recommendations on implementing the requirements of  
21 section 203 of the voting rights act within the state;

22 (b) Identify ways to increase voter participation by single-  
23 language minority groups who do not speak or understand English  
24 adequately enough to participate in the electoral process;

25 (c) Recommend parameters for providing languages other than English  
26 on voting and election materials; and

27 (d) Make other recommendations as necessary.

28 (3) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the  
29 senate committee services and the house of representatives office of  
30 program research.

31 (4) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for  
32 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
33 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
34 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
35 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

36 (5) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the  
37 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are

1 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee  
2 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their  
3 successor committees.

4 (6) The task force shall report its findings, recommendations, and  
5 proposed legislation to the appropriate committees of the legislature  
6 by January 2007.

7 (7) This section expires January 31, 2007.

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