
SENATE BILL 6131

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin, Mulliken and Sheldon

Read first time 01/09/2006. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to primary elections costs; amending RCW 29A.04.410
2 and 29A.04.420; and adding a new section to chapter 29A.04 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.410 and 2003 c 111 s 146 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Every city, town, and district is liable for its proportionate
7 share of the costs when such elections are held in conjunction with
8 other elections held under RCW ((29A.04.320)) 29A.04.321 and
9 29A.04.330.

10 Whenever any city, town, or district holds any ((primary or
11 election₇)) general or special((₇)) election on an isolated date, all
12 costs of such elections must be borne by the city, town, or district
13 concerned.

14 The purpose of this section is to clearly establish that the county
15 is not responsible for any costs involved in the holding of any city,
16 town, or district election.

17 In recovering such election expenses, including a reasonable pro-
18 portion of administrative costs, the county auditor shall certify the
19 cost to the county treasurer with a copy to the clerk or auditor of the

1 city, town, or district concerned. Upon receipt of such certification,
2 the county treasurer shall make the transfer from any available and
3 appropriate city, town, or district funds to the county current expense
4 fund or to the county election reserve fund if such a fund is
5 established. Each city, town, or district must be promptly notified by
6 the county treasurer whenever such transfer has been completed.
7 However, in those districts wherein a treasurer, other than the county
8 treasurer, has been appointed such transfer procedure does not apply,
9 but the district shall promptly issue its warrant for payment of
10 election costs.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.420 and 2003 c 111 s 147 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) Whenever state officers or measures are voted upon at a ((state
14 ~~primary or~~)) general election held in an odd-numbered year under RCW
15 ((~~29A.04.320~~)) 29A.04.321, the state of Washington shall assume a
16 prorated share of the costs of that ((state ~~primary or~~)) general
17 election.

18 (2) Whenever a ((~~primary or~~)) vacancy election is held to fill a
19 vacancy in the position of United States senator or United States
20 representative under chapter 29A.28 RCW, the state of Washington shall
21 assume a prorated share of the costs of that ((~~primary or~~)) vacancy
22 election.

23 (3) The county auditor shall apportion the state's share of these
24 expenses when prorating election costs under RCW 29A.04.410 and shall
25 file such expense claims with the secretary of state.

26 (4) The secretary of state shall include in his or her biennial
27 budget requests sufficient funds to carry out this section.
28 Reimbursements for election costs shall be from appropriations
29 specifically provided by law for that purpose.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.04 RCW
31 under the subchapter heading "election costs" to read as follows:

32 Major political parties, as defined in RCW 29A.04.086, shall pay
33 for all costs associated with partisan primaries, as described in RCW
34 29A.52.111. Costs shall be divided equally among the parties including
35 a reasonable amount for administrative costs. The secretary of state
36 shall adopt by rule the calculation for assessment of each party's

1 ratable share of administrative costs pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW.
2 The county auditor shall certify the costs to the county treasurer with
3 a copy to be delivered to the political parties. Upon receipt of such
4 certification, each party must pay its share to the county's current
5 expense fund or to the county election reserve fund if such a fund is
6 established.

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