
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2531

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By House Local Government & Housing (originally sponsored by Representatives White, Hunt, Upthegrove, Cody, Nelson, and Hudgins)

READ FIRST TIME 01/21/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to filling vacancies in county offices; and
2 amending RCW 36.16.110.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.16.110 and 2003 c 238 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the
7 county legislative authority in each county shall, at its next regular
8 or special meeting after being appraised of any vacancy in any county,
9 township, precinct, or road district office of the county, fill the
10 vacancy by the appointment of some person qualified to hold such
11 office, and the officers thus appointed shall hold office until the
12 next general election, and until their successors are elected and
13 qualified.

14 (2)(a) If a vacancy occurs in a nonpartisan office in a county with
15 more than one million five hundred thousand residents, the county
16 legislative authority must make an appointment to fill the vacancy
17 within thirty days of notification of the vacancy. In filling the
18 vacancy, consideration of whether the successor will run for office at
19 the next election may not be determinative.

1 (b) If the county legislative authority fails to comply with (a) of
2 this subsection, the governor must, within thirty days after the
3 county's appointment period closes, appoint a successor to fill the
4 vacancy. Appointments under this subsection (2)(b) may be made only
5 after consultation with members of the Washington house of
6 representatives and senate who represent the area the appointee will
7 represent.

8 (3) If a vacancy occurs in a partisan county office after the
9 general election in a year that the position appears on the ballot and
10 before the start of the next term, the term of the successor who is of
11 the same party as the incumbent may commence once he or she has
12 qualified as defined in RCW ((~~29.01.135~~)) 29A.04.133 and shall continue
13 through the term for which he or she was elected.

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