
HOUSE BILL 2531

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives White, Hunt, Upthegrove, Cody, Nelson, and Hudgins

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1 AN ACT Relating to filling vacancies in county offices; amending
2 RCW 36.16.110; adding a new section to chapter 36.16 RCW; and declaring
3 an emergency.

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

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

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

15 (2)(a) If a vacancy occurs in a nonpartisan office in a county with
16 more than one million five hundred thousand residents, the county
17 legislative authority must make an appointment to fill the vacancy
18 within thirty days of notification of the vacancy. In filling the

1 vacancy, consideration of whether the successor will run for office at
2 the next election may not be determinative.

3 (b) If the county legislative authority fails to comply with (a) of
4 this subsection, the governor must, within thirty days after the
5 county's appointment period closes, appoint a successor to fill the
6 vacancy.

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

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 36.16 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 Nonpartisan county legislative board positions in a county with
16 more than one million five hundred thousand residents that have been
17 vacant for thirty days or more as of the effective date of this section
18 shall be filled in accordance with RCW 36.16.110(1)(b).

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate
20 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
21 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
22 immediately.

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