

---

SENATE BILL 5168

---

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senator Regala

Read first time 01/15/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to school board elections in certain first-class  
2 school districts; amending RCW 28A.343.300, 28A.343.600, and  
3 28A.343.640; adding a new section to chapter 29A.04 RCW; and creating  
4 a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.04 RCW  
7 under the subchapter heading "Times for Holding Elections" to read as  
8 follows:

9 (1) In each county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or  
10 more, first-class school districts containing a city of the first class  
11 shall hold their elections biennially as provided in RCW 29A.04.330.

12 (2) Except as provided in RCW 28A.343.610, the directors to be  
13 elected may be elected for terms of six years and until their  
14 successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance  
15 with RCW 29A.20.040.

16 (3) If the board of directors of a school district included within  
17 the description in subsection (1) of this section reduces the length of  
18 the term of office for school directors in the district from six to  
19 four years, the reduction in the length of term must not affect the

1 term of office of any incumbent director without his or her consent,  
2 and provision must be made to appropriately stagger future elections of  
3 school directors.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.343.300 and 1991 c 363 s 20 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The governing board of a school district shall be known as the  
7 board of directors of the district.

8 Unless otherwise specifically provided, as in ((~~RCW 29.13.060~~))  
9 section 1 of this act, each member of a board of directors shall be  
10 elected by ballot by the registered voters of the school district and  
11 shall hold office for a term of four years and until a successor is  
12 elected and qualified. Terms of school directors shall be staggered,  
13 and insofar as possible, not more than a majority of one shall be  
14 elected to full terms at any regular election. In case a member or  
15 members of a board of directors are to be elected to fill an unexpired  
16 term or terms, the ballot shall specify the term for which each such  
17 member is to be elected.

18 Except for a school district of the first class having within its  
19 boundaries a city with a population of four hundred thousand people or  
20 more which shall have a board of directors of seven members, the board  
21 of directors of every school district of the first class or school  
22 district of the second class shall consist of five members.

23 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.343.600 and 1990 c 33 s 318 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 Any first-class school district having a board of directors of five  
26 members as provided in RCW ((~~28A.315.450~~)) 28A.343.300 and which elects  
27 directors for a term of six years under the provisions of ((~~RCW~~  
28 ~~29.13.060~~)) section 1 of this act shall cause the office of at least  
29 one director and no more than two directors to be up for election at  
30 each regular school district election held hereafter and, except as  
31 provided in RCW ((~~28A.315.680~~)) 28A.343.670, any first-class school  
32 district having a board of directors of seven members as provided in  
33 RCW ((~~28A.315.450~~)) 28A.343.300 shall cause the office of two directors  
34 and no more than three directors to be up for election at each regular  
35 school district election held hereafter.

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.343.640 and 1991 c 363 s 26 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       Upon the establishment of a new school district of the first class  
4 as provided for in RCW (~~(28A.315.580)~~) 28A.343.020 containing more than  
5 one former first-class district, the directors of the largest former  
6 first-class district and three directors representative of the other  
7 former first-class districts selected by a majority of the board  
8 members of the former first-class districts and two directors  
9 representative of former second-class districts selected by a majority  
10 of the board members of former second-class districts shall meet at the  
11 call of the educational service district superintendent and shall  
12 constitute the board of directors of the new district. Vacancies once  
13 such a board has been reconstituted shall not be filled unless the  
14 number of remaining board members is less than seven, and such  
15 vacancies shall be filled in the manner otherwise provided by law.

16       Each board of directors so constituted shall proceed at once to  
17 organize in the manner prescribed by law and thereafter shall have all  
18 of the powers and authority conferred by law upon boards of first-class  
19 districts until the next regular school election and until their  
20 successors are elected and qualified. At such election other than  
21 districts electing directors for six-year terms as provided in (~~RCW~~  
22 ~~29.13.060, as now or hereafter amended~~) section 1 of this act, five  
23 directors shall be elected either at large or by director districts, as  
24 the case may be, two for a term of two years and three for a term of  
25 four years. At such election for districts electing directors for six  
26 years other than a district having within its boundaries a city with a  
27 population of four hundred thousand people or more and electing  
28 directors for six year terms, five directors shall be elected either at  
29 large or by director districts, as the case may be, one for a term of  
30 two years, two for a term of four years, and two for a term of six  
31 years.

32       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is retroactive and shall be applied  
33 from July 1, 2004, the date that RCW 29.13.060 was inadvertently  
34 repealed as part of a reorganization and recodification of the statutes  
35 on elections.

--- END ---