

SHB 1290 - H AMD 235

By Representative Hunt

ADOPTED 03/08/2013

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 29A.40
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Each county auditor or other local election official must
6 place at least one ballot drop box at each public college and
7 university, the branch campuses of Washington State University and the
8 University of Washington, and the main campuses of each public
9 community college and technical college. This requirement is waived
10 if the county already has a ballot drop box within one mile of the
11 campus. Ballot drop boxes may be placed inside a building or outdoors,
12 and must be in place at least eighteen days before the next general
13 election. The administration or an associated student body
14 association may assist with funding the ballot drop boxes provided
15 under this section.

16 (2) The county auditor or election official may install a ballot
17 drop box on any campus, in addition to those required in subsection
18 (1) of this section, if the administration or an associated student
19 body association commits to jointly funding the installation of the
20 ballot drop box.

21 (3) Each county auditor or local election official shall establish
22 and maintain an advisory committee that includes a representative from
23 the Washington student association and a representative from the
24 administration and student government associated with each public
25 college, university, community college, and technical college located
26 in that county. The committee shall assist election officials by:

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1 (a) Identifying locations for the ballot drop boxes that will
2 maximize accessibility to students; and

3 (b) Developing an outreach plan that identifies other means to
4 promote students' voting by use of the ballot drop boxes.

5 (4) The requirements of this section do not apply to Western
6 Governors University, which is an online university.

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8 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 29A.40 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) Within ninety days of the effective date of this section, each
11 county auditor or local election official shall provide a report to
12 the secretary of state's office that includes the following
13 information:

14 (a) The number, type, and location of the county's ballot boxes,
15 including those permanently installed and those installed on a
16 temporary basis in the periods immediately preceding an election; and

17 (b) A description of the methods used to inform voters of the
18 location of the ballot drop boxes.

19 (2) The secretary of state, in consultation with county auditors
20 and county election officials, shall compile the information listed in
21 subsection (1)(a) of this section and develop and implement a plan to
22 provide voter access to drop boxes in every county.

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24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 29A.40 RCW
25 to read as follows:

26 (1) County auditors, local election officials, and the secretary
27 of state must consider Indian reservations, especially those in remote
28 locations, when identifying ballot drop box locations or developing
29 proposals for the placement of ballot drop boxes.

30 (2) Any person who tampers with or destroys a ballot drop box is
31 subject to a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars. The
32 civil penalty imposed in this section is in addition to any other
33 penalties authorized by law."

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1 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Makes the following changes to the provision requiring placement of ballot drop boxes on college campuses:

- Provides that at least one ballot drop box must be placed at the main campus of each public college, university, community college, and technical college, and at each branch campus of Washington State University and the University of Washington. States that the administration or associated student association may assist with funding these ballot drop boxes.
- Waives the requirement that the county auditor or local election official place a ballot drop box at a campus, if there is already a ballot drop box within the county within one mile of the campus.
- Authorizes the county auditor or election official to install additional ballot drop boxes on any campus, if the administration or an associated student body association commits to jointly funding the installation.
- Exempts the Western Governors University, an online university, from the requirements of the act.

Changes the reporting requirements as follows:

- Removes the requirement that the Secretary of State must compile and report to the Legislature the information provided by the county auditors and local election officials but rather requires that the Secretary of state develop and implement a plan to provide voter access to drop boxes in every county.

Requires county auditors, local election officials, and the Secretary of State to consider Indian reservations when identifying ballot drop box locations or developing proposals for the placement of ballot drop boxes.

Establishes a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars for tampering with or destroying a ballot drop box, in addition to any other penalties authorized by law.

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