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SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2853

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**State of Washington**                      **64th Legislature**                      **2016 Regular Session**

**By** House State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Hudgins and S. Hunt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1            AN ACT Relating to certification requirements for elections  
2 administrators; and amending RCW 29A.04.530.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.530 and 2009 c 415 s 8 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) The secretary of state shall:

7            ~~((1))~~ (a) Establish and operate, or provide by contract,  
8 training and certification programs for state and county elections  
9 administration officials and personnel, including training on  
10 election laws, the various types of election law violations, and  
11 discrimination;

12            ~~((2))~~ (b) Administer tests for state and county officials and  
13 personnel who have received such training and issue certificates to  
14 those who have successfully completed the training and passed such  
15 tests;

16            ~~((3))~~ (c) Maintain a record of those individuals who have  
17 received such training and certificates; and

18            ~~((4))~~ (d) Provide the staffing and support services required by  
19 the board created under RCW 29A.04.510.

20            (2) Elections professionals meeting the qualifications in  
21 subsection (3) of this section may participate in training and

1 certificate programs and testing administered by the secretary of  
2 state. The secretary may not require additional qualifications for  
3 participation.

4 (3) For the purposes of this section, "elections professional"  
5 means a person:

6 (a) Having two or more years of experience in:

7 (i) Election law;

8 (ii) Election administration;

9 (iii) Election campaigning or consulting;

10 (iv) Membership on an elections canvassing board;

11 (v) Service as an elected precinct committee officer or elections  
12 observer for a major political party as defined in RCW 29A.04.086;

13 (vi) Service as a local, state, or federal elected official; or

14 (vii) Employment as full-time professional staff to a local,  
15 state, or federal elected official; or

16 (b) Who has successfully completed college coursework in  
17 elections administration or a closely related subject at an  
18 accredited institution of higher education; or

19 (c) Who is a Washington state resident and has proof of  
20 certification from another state; or

21 (d) Who is a Washington state resident and presents a compelling  
22 petition to the secretary for inclusion in the training and  
23 certificate programs administered by the secretary.

24 (4) The secretary of state must keep the costs of training and  
25 certificate programs and testing competitive and comparable to other  
26 states and accredited programs.

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