
HOUSE BILL 2853

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins and S. Hunt

Read first time 01/22/16. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to certification requirements for elections
2 administrators; and amending RCW 29A.04.530 and 36.22.230.

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;

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;

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.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.22.230 and 1992 c 163 s 13 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) Each deputy or assistant appointed under RCW 36.22.220 shall
30 have been graduated from an accredited high school or shall have
31 passed a high school equivalency examination. Each shall be
32 knowledgeable in the rules and laws of conducting elections.

33 (2) For the purposes of this section, "knowledgeable in the rules
34 and laws of conducting elections" means an elections professional as
35 defined in RCW 29A.04.530.

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