
HOUSE BILL 1161

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Griffey, Gregerson, and Hayes

Read first time 01/12/17. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to modernizing existing statutes regarding county
2 auditors by removing obsolete or redundant references and duties that
3 pertain to meeting notices, document filing requirements, and
4 inventory; amending RCW 36.32.210, 36.72.075, 52.26.070, 68.50.040,
5 and 70.94.120; and repealing RCW 36.32.310.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.32.210 and 2003 c 53 s 204 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 ~~((1))~~ Each board of county commissioners of the several
10 counties of the state of Washington shall ~~((, on the first Monday of~~
11 ~~March of each year,))~~ file with the auditor of the county a
12 ~~((statement verified by oath showing for the twelve months period~~
13 ~~ending December 31st of the preceding year, the following:~~

14 ~~(a) A)~~ full and complete inventory of all capitalized assets
15 ~~((shall be))~~ kept in accordance with standards established by the
16 state auditor. ~~((This inventory shall be segregated to show the~~
17 ~~following subheads:~~

18 ~~(i) The assets, including equipment, on hand, together with a~~
19 ~~statement of the date when acquired, the amount paid therefor, the~~
20 ~~estimated life thereof and a sufficient description to fully identify~~
21 ~~such property;~~

1 ~~(ii) All equipment of every kind or nature sold or disposed of in~~
2 ~~any manner during such preceding twelve months period, together with~~
3 ~~the name of the purchaser, the amount paid therefor, whether or not~~
4 ~~the same was sold at public or private sale, the reason for such~~
5 ~~disposal and a sufficient description to fully identify the same; and~~

6 ~~(iii) All the equipment purchased during the period, together~~
7 ~~with the date of purchase, the amount paid therefor, whether or not~~
8 ~~the same was bought under competitive bidding, the price paid~~
9 ~~therefor and the probable life thereof, the reason for making the~~
10 ~~purchase and a sufficient description to fully identify such~~
11 ~~property; and~~

12 ~~(b) The person to whom such money or any part thereof was paid~~
13 ~~and why so paid and the date of such payment.~~

14 ~~(2) Inventories shall be filed with the county auditor as a~~
15 ~~public record and shall be open to the inspection of the public.~~

16 ~~(3) Any county commissioner failing to file such statement or~~
17 ~~willfully making any false or incorrect statement therein or aiding~~
18 ~~or abetting in the making of any false or incorrect statement is~~
19 ~~guilty of a gross misdemeanor.~~

20 ~~(4) It is the duty of the prosecuting attorney of each county to~~
21 ~~within three days from the calling to his or her attention of any~~
22 ~~violation to institute proceedings against such offending official~~
23 ~~and in addition thereto to prosecute appropriate action to remove~~
24 ~~such commissioner from office.~~

25 ~~(5) Any taxpayer of such county is hereby authorized to institute~~
26 ~~the action in conjunction with or independent of the action of the~~
27 ~~prosecuting attorney.))~~

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.32.310 (Compensation for extra
29 services) and 2009 c 549 s 4067 & 1963 c 4 s 36.32.310 are each
30 repealed.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.72.075 and 1977 c 34 s 2 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 At its first April meeting, the county legislative authority
34 shall let a contract to a legal newspaper qualified under this
35 section to serve as the official county newspaper for the term of one
36 year beginning on the first day of July following. If there be at
37 least one legal newspaper published in the county, the contract shall
38 be let to a legal newspaper published in the county. If there be no

1 legal newspaper published in the county, the county legislative
2 authority shall let the contract to a legal newspaper published in an
3 adjacent county and having general circulation in the county.

4 When two or more legal newspapers are qualified under the
5 provisions of this section to be the official county newspaper, the
6 ~~((county auditor))~~ clerk of the county legislative authority shall
7 advertise, at least five weeks before the meeting at which the county
8 legislative authority shall let the contract for the official county
9 newspaper, for bid proposals to be submitted by interested qualified
10 legal newspapers. Advertisement of the opportunity to bid shall be
11 mailed to all qualified legal newspapers and shall be published once
12 in the official county newspaper. The advertisement may designate the
13 form which notices shall take, and may require that the successful
14 bidder provide a bond for the correct and faithful performance of the
15 contract.

16 The county legislative authority shall let the contract to the
17 best and lowest responsible bidder, giving consideration to the
18 question of circulation in awarding the contract, with a view to
19 giving publication of notices the widest publicity.

20 **Sec. 4.** RCW 52.26.070 and 2006 c 200 s 5 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 If the voters approve the plan, including creation of a regional
23 fire protection service authority and imposition of taxes and benefit
24 charges, if any, and the election results are certified, the
25 authority is formed on the next January 1st or July 1st, whichever
26 occurs first. ~~((The appropriate county election officials shall,
27 within fifteen days of the final certification of the election
28 results, publish a notice in a newspaper or newspapers of general
29 circulation in the authority declaring the authority formed.))~~ A
30 party challenging the procedure or the formation of a voter-approved
31 authority must file the challenge in writing by serving the
32 prosecuting attorney of each county within, or partially within, the
33 regional fire protection service authority and the attorney general
34 within thirty days after the final certification of the election.
35 Failure to challenge within that time forever bars further challenge
36 of the authority's valid formation.

37 **Sec. 5.** RCW 68.50.040 and 2012 c 117 s 314 are each amended to
38 read as follows:

1 (~~Duplicate lists of~~) All jewelry, moneys, papers, and other
2 personal property of the deceased shall be (~~made~~) inventoried
3 immediately upon (~~finding the same~~) being taken into custody by the
4 coroner or his or her (~~assistants~~) appointees. The original of such
5 lists shall be certified to by the coroner and kept as a public
6 record at the county morgue (~~and the duplicate thereof shall be~~
7 ~~forthwith duly certified to by the coroner and filed with the county~~
8 ~~auditor~~)).

9 **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.94.120 and 2012 c 117 s 406 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The city selection committee of each county which is included
12 within an authority shall meet within one month after the activation
13 of such authority for the purpose of making its initial appointments
14 to the board of such authority and thereafter whenever necessary for
15 the purpose of making succeeding appointments. All meetings shall be
16 held upon at least two weeks written notice (~~given by the county~~
17 ~~auditor~~) to each member of the city selection committee of each
18 county and he or she shall give such notice upon request of any
19 member of such committee. A similar notice shall be given to the
20 general public by a publication of such notice in a newspaper of
21 general circulation in such authority. The (~~county auditor~~)
22 authority shall act as recording officer, maintain its records, and
23 give appropriate notice of its proceedings and actions.

24 (2) As an alternative to meeting in accordance with subsection
25 (1) of this section, the (~~county auditor~~) authority may administer
26 the appointment process through the mail.

27 (a) At least four months prior to the expiration of the term of
28 office, the (~~county auditor~~) authority must mail a request to each
29 of the members of the city selection committee seeking nominations to
30 the office. The members of the selection committee (~~have until the~~
31 ~~last day of the fourth month to return the nomination to the auditor~~
32 ~~or the auditor's designee~~) shall return the nomination to the
33 authority at its official address within fourteen days.

34 (b) If an unexpected vacancy occurs, the authority must, within
35 thirty days after becoming aware of the vacancy, mail a request to
36 each of the members of the city selection committee seeking
37 nominations to the office. The members of the city selection
38 committee shall return the nomination to the authority at its
39 official address within fourteen days after the request was made.

1 (c) Within five business days of the close of the nomination
2 period, the ((~~county auditor~~)) authority will mail ballots by
3 certified mail to each of the members of the city selection
4 committee, specifying the date by which to return the completed
5 ballot which is the last day of the third month prior to the
6 expiration of the term of office. Each mayor who chooses to
7 participate in the balloting shall mark the choice for appointment,
8 sign the ballot, and return the ballot to the ((~~county auditor~~))
9 authority. Each completed ballot shall be date-stamped upon receipt
10 by the mayor or staff of the mayor of the city or town. The timely
11 return of completed ballots by a majority of the members of each city
12 selection committee constitutes a quorum and the common choice by a
13 majority of the quorum constitutes a valid appointment.

14 (3) At least two weeks' written notice must be given by the
15 ((~~county auditor~~)) authority to each member of the city selection
16 committee prior to the nomination process. A similar notice shall be
17 given to the general public by publication in a newspaper of general
18 circulation in the authority. A single notice is sufficient for both
19 the nomination process and the balloting process.

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