
HOUSE BILL 2526

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, McBride, and Wylie

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on State Govt,
Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a committee to consider state
2 elections policy; adding a new section to chapter 29A.04 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is no
6 more core tenant of our democracy than the elections that facilitate
7 decision-making by elected and appointed leaders. It is also clear
8 election policy is not static and requires the constant input and
9 thought of those involved in the election process. A part-time
10 citizen legislature needs the input of many voices year round to make
11 sure our state democracy is as safe, secure, stable, and robust as
12 possible. This dynamic discussion is based on other established
13 boards, commissions, task forces, and work groups that support our
14 part-time legislature with input and recommendations. The legislature
15 therefore establishes an elections policy committee to assist
16 legislators with input and recommendations on election policy
17 matters.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.04
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The elections policy committee is created to review issues
2 related to the administration of state and local elections and to
3 make recommendations to the legislature on election policy. The
4 committee shall include the following members:

5 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the
6 senate, appointed by the president of the senate;

7 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
8 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
9 representatives;

10 (c) A representative from the office of the governor;

11 (d) A representative from the office of the secretary of state;

12 (e) A representative from the Washington association of county
13 auditors;

14 (f) A representative from the Washington association of counties;

15 (g) A representative from the association of Washington cities;

16 (h) A representative for special purpose districts, appointed by
17 the governor;

18 (i) Two representatives of recognized state or national groups
19 that focus on election policy advocacy, appointed by the governor;

20 (j) Two representatives of recognized state or national groups
21 that represent minority voter interests;

22 (k) Two representatives of state or national groups that focus on
23 nonpartisan election policy research and analysis; and

24 (1) A member of the public, appointed by the governor.

25 (2) The secretary of state, or his or her designee, shall set the
26 date of the initial meeting of the committee and chair the initial
27 meeting. The committee shall choose two cochairs from among its
28 legislative members at the initial meeting. Additional meetings shall
29 be set by the committee cochairs.

30 (3) The committee may invite stakeholders and interested
31 individuals and organizations to present and participate as nonvoting
32 members at committee meetings.

33 (4) Staff support for the committee must be provided by the
34 office of the secretary of state. The expenses of the committee must
35 be paid equally by the senate, the house of representatives, and the
36 office of the secretary of state.

37 (5) The purpose of the committee is to bring together a broad
38 range of interested parties to review state election policy and
39 consider recommendations for promoting and improving voter
40 participation and efficient election administration. The committee

1 may consider policy related to voter registration and turnout,
2 election dates, ballot returns and canvassing, the methods for
3 collecting and analyzing election data, and other issues related to
4 election policy the committee determines to be appropriate. The
5 committee shall set a schedule each year of topics and issues for the
6 committee to address.

7 (6) By December 1st of each year, the committee may make
8 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
9 legislature on any proposed legislation or policies approved by the
10 committee.

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