
HOUSE BILL 2529

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Kraft, Hudgins, and McBride

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

1 AN ACT Relating to the costs of election administration; creating
2 a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature shall convene an
5 election costs task force to examine the costs related to the
6 administration of all elections in the state. The task force shall
7 include the following members:

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

10 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses in the house
11 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
12 representatives;

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

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

15 (e) A representative from the Washington state association of
16 county auditors;

17 (f) A representative from the Washington state association of
18 counties;

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

20 (h) A representative for special purpose districts, appointed by
21 the governor;

- 1 (i) A representative for conservation districts; and
2 (j) A member of the public at-large, appointed by the governor.

3 (2) The secretary of state, or his or her designee, shall set the
4 date of the initial meeting of the task force and chair the initial
5 meeting. The task force shall choose two cochairs from among its
6 legislative members at the initial meeting. Additional meetings shall
7 be set by the task force cochairs. All meetings of the task force
8 must be scheduled and conducted in accordance with the requirements
9 of both the senate and the house of representatives.

10 (3) The task force may request information, recordings, and other
11 records from agencies as the task force deems appropriate for it to
12 effectuate this section.

13 (4) Staff support for the task force shall be provided by the
14 office of the secretary of state.

15 (5) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
16 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
17 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
18 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
19 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
20 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

21 (6) The task force must collect data and closely analyze:

22 (a) The costs of election administration across the state;

23 (b) The variation of costs across counties;

24 (c) The impact of existing and future costs on voter
25 participation in the state;

26 (d) The cost impact of various voter initiatives;

27 (e) The costs associated with ballot design and number of ballot
28 measures;

29 (f) The different funding sources for state and local elections;

30 (g) The sustainability of funding sources for state and local
31 elections;

32 (h) The planning for future costs and the ability to implement
33 new state policy; and

34 (i) Other issues that the task force finds may impact or affect
35 election costs.

36 (7) The task force must submit a report to the governor and the
37 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2018. The
38 report must provide detailed findings with analysis on the data
39 collected in each category, and include a comparative analysis of
40 costs among counties, the allocation of costs among the state and

1 local districts, and other factors that will present a full
2 understanding of election costs and funding. The report must include
3 recommendations for the stable and sustainable funding of election
4 costs that will create and improve efficiencies in the election
5 process that is equitable across the state. Recommendations also
6 should include any cost savings, containment, and best practices for
7 the efficient and secure administration of elections.

8 (8) This section expires June 30, 2019.

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