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**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5453**

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**State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Takko and Short

AN ACT Relating to the administration of irrigation districts; amending RCW 87.03.082 and 87.03.435; and creating a new section.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 87.03.082 and 2013 c 23 s 488 are each amended to read as follows:

Each director shall take and subscribe an official oath for the faithful discharge of the duties of his or her office((~~, and shall execute a bond to the district in the sum of one thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his or her duties, which shall be approved by the judge of the superior court of the county where the district was organized,~~)) and the oath ((~~and bond~~)) shall be recorded ((~~in the office of the county clerk of that county~~)) and filed with the secretary of the board of directors. The secretary shall take and subscribe a written oath of office ((~~and execute a bond in the sum of not less than one thousand dollars to be fixed by the directors~~)), which shall be approved and filed as in the case of ((~~the bond of~~)) a director. ((~~If a district is appointed fiscal agent of the United States to collect money for it, the secretary and directors and the district treasurer shall each execute such additional bonds as the secretary of the interior may require, conditioned for the faithful discharge of their duties which shall be approved, recorded, and filed as other official bonds. All such bonds shall be secured at the cost of the district.~~))

**Sec.**  RCW 87.03.435 and 1997 c 354 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and RCW 87.03.436, whenever in the construction of the district canal or canals, or other works, or the furnishing of materials therefor, the board of directors shall determine to let a contract or contracts for the doing of the work or the furnishing of the materials, a notice calling for sealed proposals shall be published. The notice shall be published in a newspaper in the county in which the office of the board is situated, and in any other newspaper which may be designated by the board, and for such length of time, not less than once each week for two weeks, as may be fixed by the board. At the time and place appointed in the notice for the opening of bids, the sealed proposals shall be opened in public, and as soon as convenient thereafter, the board shall let the work or the contract for the purchase of materials, either in portions or as a whole, to the lowest responsible bidder, or the board may reject any or all bids and readvertise, or if no bid is received on the first call the board of directors may readvertise and make a second call, or may enter into a contract without any further call and may purchase the supplies, material, or equipment or may proceed to construct the work under its own superintendence. All work shall be done under the direction and to the satisfaction of the engineer of the district, and be approved by the board. The board of directors may require bidders submitting bids for the construction or maintenance for any of the works of the district, or for the furnishing of labor or material, to accompany their bids by a deposit in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond in an amount equal to five percent of the amount of the bid and a bid shall not be considered unless the deposit is enclosed with it. If the contract is let, then all the bid deposits shall be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. The bid deposit of the successful bidder shall be retained until a contract is entered into for the purchase of the materials or doing of such work, and a bond given to the district in accordance with chapter 39.08 RCW for the performance of the contract. The performance bond shall be conditioned as may be required by law and as may be required by resolution of the board, with good and sufficient sureties satisfactory to the board, payable to the district for its use, for at least twenty-five percent of the contract price. If the successful bidder fails to enter into a contract and furnish the necessary bond within twenty days from the award, exclusive of the day of the award, the bid deposit shall be forfeited to the district and the contract may then be awarded to the second lowest bidder.

(2) The provisions of this section in regard to public bidding shall not apply in cases where the board is authorized to exchange bonds of the district in payment for labor and material.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply:

(a) In the case of any contract between the district and the United States;

(b) In the case of an emergency when the public interest or property of the district would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon resolution of the board of directors or proclamation of an official designated by the board to act for the board during such emergencies. The resolution or proclamation shall declare the existence of the emergency and recite the facts constituting the emergency; or

(c) To purchases which are clearly and legitimately limited to a single source of supply or to purchases involving special facilities, services, or market conditions, in which instances the purchase price may be best established by direct negotiation.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) The Washington association of county officials must conduct a study of irrigation district election-related practices and procedures and recommend best practices to standardize those procedures across all districts. Best practices are those that are equitable and ensure thorough governance of irrigation districts. In conducting this study, the Washington association of county officials may collaborate with the secretary of state, county assessors, county auditors, and other relevant stakeholders as necessary.

(2) The Washington association of county officials must report its findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019. At minimum, recommendations for the standardization of election procedures must include procedures to:

(a) Identify qualified voters and directors;

(b) Notify qualified voters and directors;

(c) Deliver and return ballots;

(d) Identify and count official returns; and

(e) Declare the winning candidate.

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