

SHB 2421 - H AMD 1225

By Representative Bergquist

ADOPTED 02/13/2020

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.410 and 2013 c 11 s 10 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Every county, city, town, and district, and the state is liable
6 for its proportionate share of the costs when such elections are held
7 in conjunction with other elections held under RCW 29A.04.321 and
8 29A.04.330.

9 Whenever any county, city, town, or district, or the state holds
10 any primary or election, general or special, on an isolated date, all
11 costs of such elections must be borne by the county, city, town, or
12 district concerned, or the state as appropriate.

13 The purpose of this section is to clearly establish that the
14 county is not responsible for any costs involved in the holding of
15 any city, town, (~~or~~) district, state, or federal election.

16 In recovering such election expenses, including a reasonable
17 (~~pro-ration~~) proration of administrative costs, the county auditor
18 shall certify the cost to the county treasurer with a copy to the
19 clerk or auditor of the city, town, or district concerned, or the
20 secretary of state as appropriate. Upon receipt of such certification
21 relating to a city, town, or district, the county treasurer shall
22 make the transfer from any available and appropriate city, town, or
23 district funds to the county current expense fund or to the county
24 election reserve fund if such a fund is established. Each city, town,
25 or district must be promptly notified by the county treasurer
26 whenever such transfer has been completed. However, in those
27 districts wherein a treasurer, other than the county treasurer, has
28 been appointed such transfer procedure does not apply, but the
29 district shall promptly issue its warrant for payment of election
30 costs. State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for
31 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.420 and 2019 c 161 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) Whenever federal officers, state officers, or measures are
4 voted upon at a state primary or general election held (~~in an odd-~~
5 ~~numbered year~~) under RCW 29A.04.321, the state of Washington shall
6 assume a prorated share of the costs of that state primary or general
7 election(~~-~~

8 ~~(2) The state shall reimburse counties for~~) for the federal and
9 state offices and measures, including the prorated cost of return
10 postage, required to be included on return envelopes pursuant to RCW
11 29A.40.091(~~, for all elections~~).

12 (~~(3)~~) (2) Whenever a primary or vacancy election is held to
13 fill a vacancy in the position of United States senator or United
14 States representative under chapter 29A.28 RCW, the state of
15 Washington shall assume a prorated share of the costs of that primary
16 or vacancy election.

17 (~~(4)~~) (3) The county auditor shall apportion the state's share
18 of these expenses when prorating election costs under RCW 29A.04.410
19 and in accordance with the state budgeting, accounting, and reporting
20 system, shall file such expense claims with the secretary of state.

21 (~~(5)~~) (4) The secretary of state shall include in his or her
22 biennial budget requests sufficient funds to carry out this section.
23 Reimbursements for election costs shall be from appropriations
24 specifically provided by law for that purpose.

25 (5) State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for
26 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

27 (6) In addition to the state share of election expenses under RCW
28 29A.04.410, the state must provide an amount not less than ten
29 percent of the budgeted amount under subsection (4) of this section
30 from the previous fiscal year to be distributed to each county,
31 prorated based on population. The distributed moneys must be used by
32 the counties for voter outreach and education required by section 3
33 of this act. This appropriation must be calculated separately from
34 any prorated share of state costs which the state is required to
35 reimburse under this chapter.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.04
37 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) County auditors must engage in voter outreach and education
2 activities, for which they may be reimbursed as provided in RCW
3 29A.04.420.

4 (2) As used in this section, "voter outreach and education"
5 includes:

6 (a) Printed materials, paid advertising, video, news coverage,
7 social media, or in-person presentations designed to:

8 (i) Educate people about the importance of voting as an act of
9 civic engagement;

10 (ii) Educate and inform people about the entire voting process,
11 from voter registration, to ballot deadlines, to election
12 certification; and

13 (iii) Reduce participation gaps with outreach to communities with
14 a history of poor voter turnout; and

15 (b) The creation of a county youth outreach council, as described
16 in subsection (4) of this section.

17 (3) County auditors must coordinate with local school districts
18 to engage youth in events for temperance and good citizenship day
19 under RCW 28A.230.150.

20 (4) Each county with a population of more than five hundred
21 thousand must create a county youth outreach council. The council
22 must be comprised of youth ages fourteen to eighteen years old and
23 have a minimum of seven members. The members of the council may be
24 nominated by local youth organizations, the page programs of the
25 senate or the house of representatives, or other programs designed to
26 increase youth civic engagement. The county auditor, or his or her
27 designee, shall select the council members from the nominees,
28 determine the duration of their membership, and determine the number
29 of meetings of the council. The activities of the council may
30 include, but are not limited to:

31 (a) Organizing events designed to increase youth voter
32 participation;

33 (b) Attendance at events designed to educate youth about local
34 and state elections; and

35 (c) Participation in events related to temperance and good
36 citizenship day as created by RCW 28A.230.150.

37 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.04.216 and 2013 c 11 s 7 are each amended to
38 read as follows:

1 The county auditor of each county shall be ex officio the
2 supervisor of all primaries and elections, general or special, and it
3 shall be the county auditor's duty to provide places for holding such
4 primaries and elections; to provide the supplies and materials
5 necessary for the conduct of elections; and to publish and post
6 notices of calling such primaries and elections in the manner
7 provided by law. The auditor shall also apportion to the county, each
8 city, town, or district, and to the state of Washington (~~in the odd-~~
9 ~~numbered year~~), its share of the expense of such primaries and
10 elections. This section does not apply to general or special
11 elections for any city, town, or district that is not subject to RCW
12 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330, but all such elections must be held and
13 conducted at the time, in the manner, and by the officials (with such
14 notice, requirements for filing for office, and certifications by
15 local officers) as provided and required by the laws governing such
16 elections. State and federal offices are to be considered one entity
17 for purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.04.430 and 2003 c 111 s 148 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) For any reimbursement of election costs under RCW 29A.04.420,
21 the secretary of state shall pay (~~interest at an annual rate equal~~
22 ~~to two percentage points in excess of the discount rate on ninety-day~~
23 ~~commercial paper in effect at the federal reserve bank in San~~
24 ~~Francisco on the fifteenth day of the month immediately preceding the~~
25 ~~payment for any period of time in excess of~~) within thirty days
26 after the receipt of a properly executed and documented voucher for
27 such expenses and the entry of an allotment from specifically
28 appropriated funds for this purpose until those funds are exhausted.
29 If funds appropriated for this purpose are not sufficient to pay all
30 claims, the secretary of state shall include a budget request to the
31 legislature during the next legislative session for sufficient funds
32 for reimbursement of all remaining claims and shall pay all properly
33 executed and documented vouchers to the counties within thirty days
34 of allotment of specifically appropriated funds for this purpose. The
35 secretary of state shall promptly notify any county that submits an
36 incomplete or inaccurate voucher for reimbursement under RCW
37 29A.04.420.

38 (2) Funding provided in this section to counties for election
39 costs in even-numbered years is retrospective and prospective

1 reimbursement under RCW 43.135.060 for any new or increased
2 responsibilities under this title.

3 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.64.081 and 2004 c 271 s 181 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The canvassing board shall determine the expenses for conducting
6 a recount of votes.

7 ~~((The))~~ (1) For a recount conducted under RCW 29A.64.011, the
8 cost of the recount shall be deducted from the amount deposited by
9 the applicant for the recount at the time of filing the request for
10 the recount, and the balance shall be returned to the applicant. If
11 the costs of the recount exceed the deposit, the applicant shall pay
12 the difference. No charges may be deducted by the canvassing board
13 from the deposit for a recount if the recount changes the result of
14 the nomination or election for which the recount was ordered.

15 (2) For a recount conducted under RCW 29A.64.021, for an office
16 where the candidates filed the declarations of candidacy with the
17 secretary of state, any legislative office, and any congressional
18 office, the county auditor shall file an expense claim for such costs
19 with the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall include a
20 budget request to the legislature during the next legislative session
21 for sufficient funds for reimbursement of all costs of the recount
22 and shall pay all properly executed and documented vouchers to the
23 counties within thirty days of allotment of specifically appropriated
24 funds for this purpose. The secretary of state shall promptly notify
25 any county that submits an incomplete or inaccurate voucher for
26 reimbursement under this section.

27 (3) State and federal offices are to be considered one entity for
28 purposes of election cost proration and reimbursement.

29 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29A.32.210 and 2013 c 11 s 38 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 ~~((At least ninety days before))~~ Before any primary or general
32 election, or ~~((at least forty days before))~~ any special election held
33 under RCW 29A.04.321 or 29A.04.330, ~~((the legislative authority of~~
34 ~~any county or first-class or code city may adopt an ordinance~~
35 ~~authorizing the publication and distribution of))~~ each county auditor
36 shall print and distribute a local voters' pamphlet. The pamphlet
37 shall provide information on all measures ~~((within that jurisdiction~~
38 ~~and may, if specified in the ordinance, include information on))~~ and

1 candidates within that jurisdiction. (~~If both a county and a first-~~
2 ~~class or code city within that county authorize a local voters'~~
3 ~~pamphlet for the same election, the pamphlet shall be produced~~
4 ~~jointly by the county and the first-class or code city. If no~~
5 ~~agreement can be reached between the county and first-class or code~~
6 ~~city, the county and first-class or code city may each produce a~~
7 ~~pamphlet. Any ordinance adopted authorizing a local voters' pamphlet~~
8 ~~may be for a specific primary, special election, or general election~~
9 ~~or for any future primaries or elections.)) The format of any local
10 voters' pamphlet shall, whenever applicable, comply with the
11 provisions of this chapter regarding the publication of the state
12 candidates' and voters' pamphlets.~~

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Subject to the availability of amounts
14 appropriated for this specific purpose, in the fiscal biennium ending
15 June 30, 2021, the state must provide an amount up to ten percent of
16 the state share of election expenses under RCW 29A.04.410 for the
17 elections held in 2019 for distribution to county auditors for the
18 purpose of voter outreach and education, as defined in section 3 of
19 this act.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act takes effect January 1, 2021."

21 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Requires county auditors to coordinate with school districts to engage youth in events for temperance and good citizenship day under RCW 28A.230.150, as part of "voter outreach and education."

(2) Requires county auditors of counties with a population greater than 500,000 persons to create a County Youth Outreach Council as part of "voter outreach and education." Each youth council must have at least seven members; and the age range of the members must be 14 to 18 years.

(3) Provides that the funding to counties for election costs in even-numbered years is retrospective and prospective reimbursement under RCW 43.135.060 for any new or increased responsibilities under Title 29A RCW.

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