
Education Committee

HB 1624

Brief Description: Administering educational service district elections.

Sponsors: Representatives Ybarra and Waters.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modifies provisions governing the administration of educational service district board member elections by removing provisions requiring elections to be conducted only by mail. |
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Hearing Date: 2/7/23

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

Washington State School Directors' Association.

The Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) is the state agency that provides advice and assistance to local school boards. The WSSDA is charged with coordinating policymaking, control, and management of the state's school districts, and is empowered to prepare and adopt materials for its own organization. The WSSDA also adopts model policies and procedures that school districts may adopt, often in response to legislative directives.

Educational Service Districts.

Washington has nine regionally based Educational Service Districts (ESDs) that provide cooperative informational services to local school districts and assist the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the State Board of Education in the performance of their duties. Among other responsibilities, the ESDs serve as a depository and distribution center for instructional materials, and they assist school districts in the preparation of their

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budgets. The ESDs are governed by boards of seven or nine members elected by school directors within each of the ESDs.

Legislation adopted in 2022 transferred election administration duties for ESD board member elections, including duties related to candidate filing and voting, from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the WSSDA. Declarations of candidacy forms for these elections may only be filed in person or by mail, and all votes in these elections must be cast by mail.

Summary of Bill:

Provisions governing the administration of ESD board member elections by the WSSDA are modified by:

- removing a provision requiring that declaration of candidacy forms be filed only in person or by mail; and
- removing provisions requiring that all votes for ESD board members be cast by mail.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.