
SENATE BILL 5245

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Krishnadasan, Valdez, Nobles, Shewmake, and J. Wilson

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the oath of office for members of the state
2 legislature; amending RCW 29A.04.133 and 36.32.120; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 44.04 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Elected and appointed members of the senate and house of
8 representatives, before entering upon the duties of their office,
9 shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation: "I do
10 solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of
11 the United States and the Constitution and laws of the State of
12 Washington, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the
13 duties of the office of (senator or representative) of the State of
14 Washington to the best of my ability." Which oath or affirmation may
15 be administered by any person authorized to administer oaths, a
16 certificate whereof shall be affixed thereto by the person
17 administering the oath, and the oath or affirmation so certified
18 shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

19 (2) The following persons are eligible to administer the oath of
20 office:

21 (a) Court commissioners pursuant to RCW 2.24.010;

- 1 (b) Judicial officers pursuant to RCW 2.28.060;
2 (c) Every court, judge, clerk of a court, state-certified court
3 reporter, or notary public pursuant to RCW 5.28.010; and
4 (d) County councilmembers and commissioners pursuant to RCW
5 36.32.120.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.133 and 2007 c 374 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 "Qualified" when pertaining to a winner of an election means that
9 for such election:

- 10 (1) The results have been certified;
11 (2) Any required bond has been posted; and
12 (3) The winner has taken and subscribed an oath or affirmation in
13 compliance with (~~the~~) section 1 of this act or other appropriate
14 statute, or if none is specified, that he or she will faithfully and
15 impartially discharge the duties of the office to the best of his or
16 her ability. This oath or affirmation shall be administered and
17 certified by any officer or notary public authorized to administer
18 oaths, without charge therefor.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.32.120 and 2020 c 20 s 1019 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 The legislative authorities of the several counties shall:

- 22 (1) Provide for the erection and repairing of courthouses, jails,
23 and other necessary public buildings for the use of the county;
24 (2) Lay out, discontinue, or alter county roads and highways
25 within their respective counties, and do all other necessary acts
26 relating thereto according to law, except within cities and towns
27 which have jurisdiction over the roads within their limits;
28 (3) License and fix the rates of ferriage; grant grocery and
29 other licenses authorized by law to be by them granted at fees set by
30 the legislative authorities which shall not exceed the costs of
31 administration and operation of such licensed activities;
32 (4) Fix the amount of county taxes to be assessed according to
33 the provisions of law, and cause the same to be collected as
34 prescribed by law;
35 (5) Allow all accounts legally chargeable against the county not
36 otherwise provided for, and audit the accounts of all officers having
37 the care, management, collection, or disbursement of any money
38 belonging to the county or appropriated to its benefit;

1 (6) Have the care of the county property and the management of
2 the county funds and business and in the name of the county prosecute
3 and defend all actions for and against the county, and such other
4 powers as are or may be conferred by law;

5 (7) Make and enforce, by appropriate resolutions or ordinances,
6 all such police and sanitary regulations as are not in conflict with
7 state law, and within the unincorporated area of the county may adopt
8 by reference Washington state statutes and recognized codes and/or
9 compilations printed in book form relating to the construction of
10 buildings, the installation of plumbing, the installation of electric
11 wiring, health, or other subjects, and may adopt such codes and/or
12 compilations or portions thereof, together with amendments thereto,
13 or additions thereto: PROVIDED, That except for Washington state
14 statutes, there shall be filed in the county auditor's office one
15 copy of such codes and compilations ten days prior to their adoption
16 by reference, and additional copies may also be filed in library or
17 city offices within the county as deemed necessary by the county
18 legislative authority: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no such regulation,
19 code, compilation, and/or statute shall be effective unless before
20 its adoption, a public hearing has been held thereon by the county
21 legislative authority of which at least ten days' notice has been
22 given. Any violation of such regulations, ordinances, codes,
23 compilations, and/or statutes or resolutions shall constitute a
24 misdemeanor or a civil violation subject to a monetary penalty:
25 PROVIDED FURTHER, That violation of a regulation, ordinance, code,
26 compilation, and/or statute relating to traffic including parking,
27 standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction,
28 except that violation of a regulation, ordinance, code, compilation,
29 and/or statute equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set
30 forth in RCW 46.63.020 remains a misdemeanor. However, the punishment
31 for any criminal ordinance shall be the same as the punishment
32 provided in state law for the same crime and no act that is a state
33 crime may be made a civil violation. The notice must set out a copy
34 of the proposed regulations or summarize the content of each proposed
35 regulation; or if a code is adopted by reference the notice shall set
36 forth the full official title and a statement describing the general
37 purpose of such code. For purposes of this subsection, a summary
38 shall mean a brief description which succinctly describes the main
39 points of the proposed regulation. When the county publishes a
40 summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text

1 of the proposed regulation will be mailed upon request. An
2 inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the text or a summary
3 of the content of a proposed regulation shall not render the
4 regulation invalid if it is adopted. The notice shall also include
5 the day, hour, and place of hearing and must be given by publication
6 in the newspaper in which legal notices of the county are printed;

7 (8) Have power to compound and release in whole or in part any
8 debt due to the county when in their opinion the interest of their
9 county will not be prejudiced thereby, except in cases where they or
10 any of them are personally interested;

11 (9) Have power to administer oaths or affirmations necessary in
12 the discharge of their duties, or as otherwise authorized by section
13 1 of this act, and commit for contempt any witness refusing to
14 testify before them with the same power as district judges;

15 (10) Have power to declare by ordinance what shall be deemed a
16 nuisance within the county, including but not limited to "litter" and
17 "potentially dangerous litter" as defined in RCW 70A.200.030; to
18 prevent, remove, and abate a nuisance at the expense of the parties
19 creating, causing, or committing the nuisance; and to levy a special
20 assessment on the land or premises on which the nuisance is situated
21 to defray the cost, or to reimburse the county for the cost of
22 abating it. This assessment shall constitute a lien against the
23 property which shall be of equal rank with state, county, and
24 municipal taxes.

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