HOUSE BILL 2852

State of Washington   **64th Legislature**   **2016 Regular Session**

By Representatives Hudgins, S. Hunt, and Stanford

Read first time 01/22/16. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1   AN ACT Relating to establishing standards for election data and
2 reporting; amending RCW 29A.60.160; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 29A.60 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 29A.60
6 RCW to read as follows:
7   (1) The secretary of state must develop statewide election data
8 and reporting standards for how election-related data is maintained
9 and reported by each county auditor. The secretary may make
10 reasonable rules as necessary to develop statewide standards.
11   (2) The statewide standards should focus on the goals of
12 improving:
13   (a) The types of data files and procedures used to collect and
14 maintain election information;
15   (b) The public's access to election data collected, reported, and
16 made available by each county auditor including, but not limited to:
17   (i) Records of voters who were issued a ballot and voters who
18 voted in an election, pursuant to RCW 29A.40.130;
19   (ii) Tabulation results made available pursuant to RCW
20 29A.60.160; and

1   (iii) Information collected and reported in the county election
2   reconciliation report, pursuant to RCW 29A.60.235; and
3   (c) The efficient compilation of data from all counties for
4   research and analysis of election practices and trends at a statewide
5   level.
6   (3) The secretary of state may convene a work group, including
7   county auditors and other interested stakeholders to evaluate how
8   county election data is collected and maintained and to develop and
9   recommend ways for improving election data reporting.
10   (4) The statewide standards must be made public with ongoing
11 analysis on whether counties are in compliance with current
12 standards.

13   **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.60.160 and 2013 c 11 s 62 are each amended to
14 read as follows:
15   (1) The county auditor, as delegated by the county canvassing
16 board, shall process ballots and canvass the votes cast at that
17 primary or election on a daily basis in counties with a population of
18 seventy-five thousand or more, or at least every third day for
19 counties with a population of less than seventy-five thousand, if the
20 county auditor is in possession of more than five hundred ballots
21 that have yet to be canvassed.
22   (2) Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays are not counted for
23 purposes of this section.
24   (3) In order to protect the secrecy of a ballot, the county
25 auditor may use discretion to decide when to process ballots and
26 canvass the votes.
27   (4) Tabulation results must be made available to the public
28 immediately upon completion of the canvass. Records of ballots
29 counted and rejected must be made available to the public at the end
30 of each day that the county auditor has processed ballots during and
31 after an election.

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