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HOUSE BILL 2079

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Hudgins

Read first time 02/13/17. Referred to Committee on State Govt,  
Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to uniform ballot design; amending RCW  
2 29A.36.111; and adding a new section to chapter 29A.36 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.36.111 and 2009 c 414 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The secretary of state, in conjunction with the Washington  
7 state association of county auditors, shall develop a uniform ballot  
8 format to be used by each county. The format must be implemented by  
9 the year 2027, or upon replacement of vote tallying equipment,  
10 whichever occurs first.

11 (2) Every ballot for a single combination of issues, offices, and  
12 candidates shall be uniform within a precinct and shall identify the  
13 type of primary or election, the county, and the date of the primary  
14 or election, and the ballot or voting device shall contain  
15 instructions on the proper method of recording a vote, including  
16 write-in votes. Each position, together with the names of the  
17 candidates for that office, shall be clearly separated from other  
18 offices or positions in the same jurisdiction. The offices in each  
19 jurisdiction shall be clearly separated from each other. No paper  
20 ballot or ballot card may be marked by or at the direction of an

1 election official in any way that would permit the identification of  
2 the person who voted that ballot.

3 ~~((2))~~ (3) An ~~((elections [election]))~~ election official may not  
4 enter into or extend any contract with a vendor if such contract may  
5 allow the vendor to acquire an ownership interest in any data  
6 pertaining to any voter, any voter's address, registration number, or  
7 history, or any ballot.

8 (4) The secretary of state, in consultation with the department  
9 of enterprise services and with county auditors, may develop a master  
10 contract for vote tallying equipment for purchase by counties.

11 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 29A.36  
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 A county auditor or county council may establish an equipment  
14 replacement fund that must be used explicitly to replace vote  
15 tallying equipment. Only the county auditor may authorize  
16 expenditures from the fund. Election billing charges must be  
17 sufficient to fund the replacement of vote tallying equipment by the  
18 year 2024.

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