

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SENATE BILL 5187**

65th Legislature  
2017 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2017  
Yeas 48 Nays 1

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 5, 2017  
Yeas 91 Nays 6

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SENATE BILL 5187** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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SENATE BILL 5187

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Passed Legislature - 2017 Regular Session

State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Senators Angel, Takko, and Warnick

Read first time 01/16/17. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1            AN ACT Relating to modernizing county auditor statutes; amending  
2 RCW 36.32.210, 36.72.075, 52.26.070, 68.50.040, and 70.94.120; and  
3 repealing RCW 36.32.310.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.32.210 and 2003 c 53 s 204 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7            (~~(1)~~) Each board of county commissioners of the several  
8 counties of the state of Washington shall (~~(, on the first Monday of~~  
9 ~~March of each year,)~~) file with the auditor of the county a  
10 (~~statement verified by oath showing for the twelve months period~~  
11 ~~ending December 31st of the preceding year, the following:~~

12            ~~(a) A)~~ full and complete inventory of all capitalized assets  
13 (~~shall be~~) kept in accordance with standards established by the  
14 state auditor. (~~This inventory shall be segregated to show the~~  
15 ~~following subheads:~~

16            ~~(i) The assets, including equipment, on hand, together with a~~  
17 ~~statement of the date when acquired, the amount paid therefor, the~~  
18 ~~estimated life thereof and a sufficient description to fully identify~~  
19 ~~such property;~~

20            ~~(ii) All equipment of every kind or nature sold or disposed of in~~  
21 ~~any manner during such preceding twelve months period, together with~~

1 ~~the name of the purchaser, the amount paid therefor, whether or not~~  
2 ~~the same was sold at public or private sale, the reason for such~~  
3 ~~disposal and a sufficient description to fully identify the same; and~~

4 ~~(iii) All the equipment purchased during the period, together~~  
5 ~~with the date of purchase, the amount paid therefor, whether or not~~  
6 ~~the same was bought under competitive bidding, the price paid~~  
7 ~~therefor and the probable life thereof, the reason for making the~~  
8 ~~purchase and a sufficient description to fully identify such~~  
9 ~~property; and~~

10 ~~(b) The person to whom such money or any part thereof was paid~~  
11 ~~and why so paid and the date of such payment.~~

12 ~~(2) Inventories shall be filed with the county auditor as a~~  
13 ~~public record and shall be open to the inspection of the public.~~

14 ~~(3) Any county commissioner failing to file such statement or~~  
15 ~~willfully making any false or incorrect statement therein or aiding~~  
16 ~~or abetting in the making of any false or incorrect statement is~~  
17 ~~guilty of a gross misdemeanor.~~

18 ~~(4) It is the duty of the prosecuting attorney of each county to~~  
19 ~~within three days from the calling to his or her attention of any~~  
20 ~~violation to institute proceedings against such offending official~~  
21 ~~and in addition thereto to prosecute appropriate action to remove~~  
22 ~~such commissioner from office.~~

23 ~~(5) Any taxpayer of such county is hereby authorized to institute~~  
24 ~~the action in conjunction with or independent of the action of the~~  
25 ~~prosecuting attorney.))~~

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.32.310 (Compensation for extra  
27 services) and 2009 c 549 s 4067 & 1963 c 4 s 36.32.310 are each  
28 repealed.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.72.075 and 1977 c 34 s 2 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 At its first April meeting, the county legislative authority  
32 shall let a contract to a legal newspaper qualified under this  
33 section to serve as the official county newspaper for the term of one  
34 year beginning on the first day of July following. If there be at  
35 least one legal newspaper published in the county, the contract shall  
36 be let to a legal newspaper published in the county. If there be no  
37 legal newspaper published in the county, the county legislative

1 authority shall let the contract to a legal newspaper published in an  
2 adjacent county and having general circulation in the county.

3 When two or more legal newspapers are qualified under the  
4 provisions of this section to be the official county newspaper, the  
5 (~~county auditor~~) clerk of the county legislative authority shall  
6 advertise, at least five weeks before the meeting at which the county  
7 legislative authority shall let the contract for the official county  
8 newspaper, for bid proposals to be submitted by interested qualified  
9 legal newspapers. Advertisement of the opportunity to bid shall be  
10 mailed to all qualified legal newspapers and shall be published once  
11 in the official county newspaper. The advertisement may designate the  
12 form which notices shall take, and may require that the successful  
13 bidder provide a bond for the correct and faithful performance of the  
14 contract.

15 The county legislative authority shall let the contract to the  
16 best and lowest responsible bidder, giving consideration to the  
17 question of circulation in awarding the contract, with a view to  
18 giving publication of notices the widest publicity.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 52.26.070 and 2006 c 200 s 5 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 If the voters approve the plan, including creation of a regional  
22 fire protection service authority and imposition of taxes and benefit  
23 charges, if any, and the election results are certified, the  
24 authority is formed on the next January 1st or July 1st, whichever  
25 occurs first. (~~The appropriate county election officials shall,~~  
26 ~~within fifteen days of the final certification of the election~~  
27 ~~results, publish a notice in a newspaper or newspapers of general~~  
28 ~~circulation in the authority declaring the authority formed.)) A  
29 party challenging the procedure or the formation of a voter-approved  
30 authority must file the challenge in writing by serving the  
31 prosecuting attorney of each county within, or partially within, the  
32 regional fire protection service authority and the attorney general  
33 within thirty days after the final certification of the election.  
34 Failure to challenge within that time forever bars further challenge  
35 of the authority's valid formation.~~

36 **Sec. 5.** RCW 68.50.040 and 2012 c 117 s 314 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1       (~~Duplicate lists of~~) All jewelry, moneys, papers, and other  
2 personal property of the deceased shall be (~~made~~) inventoried  
3 immediately upon (~~finding the same~~) being taken into custody by the  
4 coroner or his or her (~~assistants~~) appointees. The original of such  
5 lists shall be certified to by the coroner and kept as a public  
6 record at the county morgue (~~and the duplicate thereof shall be~~  
7 ~~forthwith duly certified to by the coroner and filed with the county~~  
8 ~~auditor~~)).

9       **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.94.120 and 2012 c 117 s 406 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11       (1) The city selection committee of each county which is included  
12 within an authority shall meet within one month after the activation  
13 of such authority for the purpose of making its initial appointments  
14 to the board of such authority and thereafter whenever necessary for  
15 the purpose of making succeeding appointments. All meetings shall be  
16 held upon at least two weeks written notice (~~given by the county~~  
17 ~~auditor~~) to each member of the city selection committee of each  
18 county and he or she shall give such notice upon request of any  
19 member of such committee. A similar notice shall be given to the  
20 general public by a publication of such notice in a newspaper of  
21 general circulation in such authority. The (~~county auditor~~)  
22 authority shall act as recording officer, maintain its records, and  
23 give appropriate notice of its proceedings and actions.

24       (2) As an alternative to meeting in accordance with subsection  
25 (1) of this section, the (~~county auditor~~) authority may administer  
26 the appointment process through the mail.

27       (a) At least four months prior to the expiration of the term of  
28 office, the (~~county auditor~~) authority must mail a request to each  
29 of the members of the city selection committee seeking nominations to  
30 the office. The members of the selection committee (~~have until the~~  
31 ~~last day of the fourth month to return the nomination to the auditor~~  
32 ~~or the auditor's designee~~) shall return the nomination to the  
33 authority at its official address within fourteen days.

34       (b) If an unexpected vacancy occurs, the authority must, within  
35 thirty days after becoming aware of the vacancy, mail a request to  
36 each of the members of the city selection committee seeking  
37 nominations to the office. The members of the city selection  
38 committee shall return the nomination to the authority at its  
39 official address within fourteen days after the request was made.

1        (c) Within five business days of the close of the nomination  
2 period, the ((~~county auditor~~)) authority will mail ballots by  
3 certified mail to each of the members of the city selection  
4 committee, specifying the date by which to return the completed  
5 ballot which is the last day of the third month prior to the  
6 expiration of the term of office. Each mayor who chooses to  
7 participate in the balloting shall mark the choice for appointment,  
8 sign the ballot, and return the ballot to the ((~~county auditor~~))  
9 authority. Each completed ballot shall be date-stamped upon receipt  
10 by the mayor or staff of the mayor of the city or town. The timely  
11 return of completed ballots by a majority of the members of each city  
12 selection committee constitutes a quorum and the common choice by a  
13 majority of the quorum constitutes a valid appointment.

14        (3) At least two weeks' written notice must be given by the  
15 ((~~county auditor~~)) authority to each member of the city selection  
16 committee prior to the nomination process. A similar notice shall be  
17 given to the general public by publication in a newspaper of general  
18 circulation in the authority. A single notice is sufficient for both  
19 the nomination process and the balloting process.

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