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HOUSE BILL 1887

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Hudgins

Read first time 02/04/19. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to identifying and recognizing best practices  
2 through an audit of statewide election reconciliation reports;  
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that national data  
6 show that the state has had one of the worst ballot rejection rates  
7 in the nation for at least ten years. The legislature finds that  
8 election data and analysis is key to understanding trends and areas  
9 of concern regarding voter registration, voter turnout, and ballot  
10 counting, and to improving the state's administration of elections.  
11 Legislation enacted in 2017, chapter 300, Laws of 2017, requires the  
12 secretary of state to prepare a statewide reconciliation report based  
13 on county election data. The report must compare the county data and  
14 also provide an analysis of the data, to include national statistics  
15 to the extent available. To assure the statewide reconciliation  
16 report is providing information helpful to the understanding of  
17 election administration, the legislature intends to direct the state  
18 auditor to audit the statewide reconciliation reports.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The state auditor shall audit the  
20 statewide reconciliation reports prepared by the secretary of state

1 under RCW 29A.60.235(3) to examine and make recommendations regarding  
2 the effectiveness and efficiency of the reports in developing an  
3 enhanced understanding of election administration and policy. The  
4 audit must include:

5 (a) A comparison of the secretary of state's practices with the  
6 requirements of the law;

7 (b) Identification of any programs and services that can be  
8 enhanced;

9 (c) Verification of the reliability and validity of performance  
10 data, self-assessments, and performance measurement systems relevant  
11 to the statewide reconciliation report;

12 (d) Identification of best practices in analyzing election data;  
13 and

14 (e) Recommendations for any statutory or regulatory changes to  
15 allow the secretary of state to more effectively analyze the data.

16 (2) The state auditor shall submit a preliminary report to the  
17 secretary of state no later than October 15, 2020, and the secretary  
18 of state shall submit any comments to the state auditor no later than  
19 November 15, 2020. By December 1, 2020, the state auditor shall  
20 submit the final report to the secretary of state and the appropriate  
21 committees of the legislature and make the report available on its  
22 web site.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires January 1, 2021.

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