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**SENATE BILL 5834**

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**State of Washington**

**57th Legislature**

**2001 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Hale, Haugen and Kohl-Welles; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 02/05/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to election certification and training; creating a  
2 new section; making appropriations; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the 2000  
5 presidential election demonstrated the importance of ensuring the  
6 highest possible level of technical skill and knowledge of federal and  
7 state laws and administrative rules on the part of those conducting  
8 elections. It further finds that, while the people who administer  
9 elections in Washington have earned the confidence of the voters, even  
10 small errors can affect the outcome of an election. It further finds  
11 that experience in other states such as Florida has shown the  
12 importance of well-trained, tested, and certified election  
13 administrators at all levels of the election process. The legislature  
14 also finds that voting data on both a national and state level  
15 establishes the need to update voting equipment to ensure that voters  
16 are not inadvertently disenfranchised because of faulty or obsolete  
17 voting equipment or because those persons charged with operating and  
18 maintaining the voting equipment are not adequately trained or prepared  
19 for their duties. Additionally, the legislature takes note of the

1 United States Supreme Court decision in *Bush v. Gore*, in which the  
2 court directed that standards be adopted to ensure that a standard and  
3 uniform procedure is established for determining the validity of votes.  
4 Therefore, the legislature directs that the certification and training  
5 program established in the office of the secretary of state under  
6 chapter 29.60 RCW be expanded to ensure that the mandate of the United  
7 States Supreme Court be implemented, that election administrators in  
8 the state of Washington receive expanded training and technical  
9 assistance to enable them to better fulfill their statutory  
10 obligations, that the testing and certification of those administrators  
11 continue, and that periodic reviews of county election procedures,  
12 policies, and practices take place as often as deemed necessary by the  
13 secretary of state but not less than once every three years in order to  
14 ensure that the highest level of professionalism in the administration  
15 of elections is maintained.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of four hundred ninety thousand five  
17 hundred twenty-one dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
18 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, from the general  
19 fund to the secretary of state for the purposes of this act.

20 The sum of four hundred seventy-four thousand three hundred fifty-  
21 six dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated  
22 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003, from the general fund to the  
23 secretary of state for the purposes of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
26 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
27 immediately.

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