

SHB 2612 - H AMD TO H AMD (H-4265.4/12) 1121
By Representative Condotta

1 Beginning on page 1, line 3 of the amendment, strike all of
2 sections 1 through 12 and insert the following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The voting rights act racially
4 polarized voting task force is established, with voting members
5 appointed as provided in this subsection (1).

6 (a) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one
7 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
8 representatives.

9 (b) The president of the senate shall appoint one voting member
10 from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

11 (c) The legislative leaders of the two largest political parties in
12 each house of the legislature shall jointly appoint the following
13 nonvoting members:

14 (i) Two members representing local governments with fewer than
15 fifty thousand residents and two members representing local governments
16 with fifty thousand or more residents. From among these four members,
17 there shall be representation from the following regions of Washington
18 state: Northeast; northwest; southeast; and southwest;

19 (ii) One member each from the Seattle University, Gonzaga
20 University, and the University of Washington, with legal or statistical
21 knowledge of the federal voting rights act;

22 (iii) An employee of the United States attorneys office, civil
23 division, if they would like to participate;

24 (iv) An employee of the United States department of justice, if
25 they would like to participate;

26 (v) An employee of the attorney general's office;

27 (vi) An employee of the secretary of state's office;

28 (vii) One member from and representing the Asian-American
29 community;

1 (viii) One member from and representing the Latino-American
2 community;

3 (ix) One member from the African-American community;

4 (x) One member from a federally recognized Indian tribe physically
5 located in Washington state that has not nor intends to retrocede civil
6 jurisdiction;

7 (xi) An elected auditor on behalf of the Washington association of
8 auditors; and

9 (xii) A representative of the Washington association of county
10 officials.

11 (d) The task force's cochairs shall be the senator affiliated with
12 the democratic caucus and the representative affiliated with the
13 republican caucus. The representative affiliated with the republican
14 caucus shall convene the initial meeting of the task force.

15 (2) The task force shall investigate racially polarized voting
16 and/or vote dilution occurrences in elections in Washington state over
17 the last two decades.

18 (3)(a) The task force may make recommendations regarding their
19 findings and potential improvements for creating districts for voting
20 in this state to avoid racially polarized voting and vote dilution
21 occurrences.

22 (b) Findings and recommendations of the task force must be
23 determined by consensus of the voting members of the task force. A
24 draft version of the findings and recommendations shall be made
25 available to the public prior to being submitted to the governor and
26 the legislature, and the task force shall accept public testimony
27 regarding its draft findings and recommendations.

28 (4) Task force meetings shall be open to the public. The task
29 force must, subject to expenditure approvals required in subsection (7)
30 of this section, provide opportunities for members and the public to
31 listen to the proceedings telephonically or through other available
32 technologies.

33 (5) Staff support for the task force must be provided by senate
34 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
35 research.

36 (6) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for
37 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative

1 members are not eligible for travel reimbursements unless funding for
2 those reimbursements, referencing this act by bill or chapter number,
3 is provided by June 30, 2012, in the omnibus appropriations act.

4 (7) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
5 house of representatives and the senate. Task force expenditures are
6 subject to approval by the house of representatives executive rules
7 committee and the senate facilities and operations committee, or their
8 successor committees.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act expires December 31, 2013."

EFFECT: Strikes all sections and establishes a "Voting Rights Act
Racially Polarized Voting" task force to investigate and report on
racially polarized voting and/or dilution occurrences in elections in
the state over the last two decades.

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