

SHB 2612 - H AMD 982

By Representative Taylor

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 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  
12 in each house of the legislature shall jointly appoint the following  
13 non-voting members:

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

1 (vii) One member from and representing the Asian American  
2 community

3 (viii) one member from and representing the Latino-American  
4 community

5 (ix) one member from the African-American community;

6 (x) one member from a federally recognized Indian tribe physically  
7 located in Washington state that has not nor intends to retroceed  
8 civil jurisdiction;

9 (xi) An elected auditor on behalf of the Washington association of  
10 auditors; and

11 (xii) A representative of the Washington association of county  
12 officials.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 (6) Legislative members of the task force must be reimbursed for  
5 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
6 members are not eligible for travel reimbursements unless funding for  
7 those reimbursements, referencing this act by bill or chapter number,  
8 is provided by June 30, 2012, in the omnibus appropriations act.

9 (7) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the  
10 house of representatives and the senate. Task force expenditures are  
11 subject to approval by the house of representatives executive rules  
12 committee and the senate facilities and operations committee, or their  
13 successor committees.

14

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Sections 1 through 2 of this act expire  
16 December 31, 2013."

17

18 Correct the title.

19

EFFECT: Strikes the underlying bill 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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