Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

State Government, Elections & Information Technology Committee

HB 2375

Brief Description: Addressing state reimbursement of election costs in even-numbered years.

Sponsors: Representatives McDonald, Fey, Johnson and Muri.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Requires the state to pay its prorated share of election costs in even-numbered years, according to a specified payment schedule.

Hearing Date: 1/17/18

Staff: Desiree Omli (786-7105).

Background:

The state must pay a prorated share of the cost of any primary or general election in oddnumbered years when state officers or measures are on the ballot. The county auditor determines the state's share of election costs and files for reimbursement with the Secretary of State. The county assumes the state's cost during even-numbered years, except when a primary or vacancy election is held to fill a vacancy for the position of United States (U.S.) Senator or U.S. Representative.

Summary of Bill:

The state must pay its prorated share of the cost of any primary or general election in evennumbered years when state officers or measurers are on the ballot, according to a specified payment schedule. The payment schedule requires the state to pay 25 percent of its prorated share of election costs in 2020, increasing by 10 percent every even-numbered year up to 100 percent in 2036. Beginning in 2036, the state must pay 100 percent of its prorated share of election costs.

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This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 8, 2018.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is

passed.

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