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HOUSE BILL 2375

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives McDonald, Fey, Johnson, and Muri

Prefiled 01/04/18. Read first time 01/08/18. Referred to Committee on State Govt, Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to state reimbursement of election costs in even-  
2 numbered years; and amending RCW 29A.04.216 and 29A.04.420.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.04.216 and 2013 c 11 s 7 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The county auditor of each county shall be ex officio the  
7 supervisor of all primaries and elections, general or special, and it  
8 shall be the county auditor's duty to provide places for holding such  
9 primaries and elections; to provide the supplies and materials  
10 necessary for the conduct of elections; and to publish and post  
11 notices of calling such primaries and elections in the manner  
12 provided by law. The auditor shall also apportion to each city, town,  
13 or district, and to the state of Washington (~~in the odd-numbered~~  
14 ~~year~~) consistent with RCW 29A.04.420, its share of the expense of  
15 such primaries and elections. This section does not apply to general  
16 or special elections for any city, town, or district that is not  
17 subject to RCW 29A.04.321 and 29A.04.330, but all such elections must  
18 be held and conducted at the time, in the manner, and by the  
19 officials (with such notice, requirements for filing for office, and  
20 certifications by local officers) as provided and required by the  
21 laws governing such elections.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.04.420 and 2013 c 11 s 11 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Whenever state officers or measures are voted upon at a state  
4 primary or general election held in an odd-numbered year under RCW  
5 29A.04.321, the state of Washington shall assume a prorated share of  
6 the costs of that state primary or general election.

7       (2) Whenever state officers or measures are voted upon at a state  
8 primary or general election held in an even-numbered year under RCW  
9 29A.04.321, the state shall assume the percentage of its prorated  
10 share of the costs of that state primary or general election  
11 according to the following schedule:

12       (a) Twenty-five percent in 2020;

13       (b) Thirty-five percent in 2022;

14       (c) Forty-five percent in 2024;

15       (d) Fifty-five percent in 2026;

16       (e) Sixty-five percent in 2028;

17       (f) Seventy-five percent in 2030;

18       (g) Eighty-five percent in 2032;

19       (h) Ninety-five percent in 2034; and

20       (i) One hundred percent in 2036 and thereafter.

21       (3) Whenever a primary or vacancy election is held to fill a  
22 vacancy in the position of United States senator or United States  
23 representative under chapter 29A.28 RCW, the state of Washington  
24 shall assume a prorated share of the costs of that primary or vacancy  
25 election.

26       (~~(3)~~) (4) The county auditor shall apportion the state's share  
27 of these expenses when prorating election costs under RCW 29A.04.410  
28 and shall file such expense claims with the secretary of state.

29       (~~(4)~~) (5) The secretary of state shall include in his or her  
30 biennial budget requests sufficient funds to carry out this section.  
31 Reimbursements for election costs shall be from appropriations  
32 specifically provided by law for that purpose.

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