

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5151

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As of January 16, 2023

**Title:** An act relating to updating the executive team of the office of the secretary of state by adding a chief of staff position.

**Brief Description:** Updating the executive team of the office of the secretary of state by adding a chief of staff position.

**Sponsors:** Senators Valdez, Hunt, Nguyen and Nobles; by request of Secretary of State.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** State Government & Elections: 1/17/23.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Codifies the position of Chief of Staff in the Secretary of State's Office.
- Authorizes the Assistant Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of State, and Chief of Staff to have signing authority on behalf of the Secretary of State.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS

**Staff:** Megan Tudor (786-7478)

**Background:** The Office of the Secretary of State was established in 1889 with the adoption of the Washington State Constitution. The Secretary of State (SOS) is an elected position with a four year term and is the chief elections officer, chief corporations officer, and supervisor of the State Archives. Key responsibilities of the SOS include supervising state and local elections, certifying the results of state primaries and general elections, producing and distributing the state voter pamphlet, and collecting and maintaining state historical records.

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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 part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The Secretary of the State's executive office employs an Assistant Secretary of State and Deputy Secretary of State. These executive positions are authorized by the SOS to perform any act or duty relating to the Office of the Secretary of State and the SOS is responsible for the acts of the Assistant Secretary of State and Deputy Secretary of State.

**Summary of Bill:** The bill as referred to committee not considered.

**Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute):** The position of Chief of Staff at the Secretary of State's Office is codified in statute. The Assistant Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of State, and Chief of Staff are explicitly given signing authority on behalf of the SOS.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.