

1 **SB 5587** - H COMM AMD
2 By Committee on State Government

3 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert
4 the following:

5 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29.33
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules and establish
8 standards for voting technology and systems used by the state or
9 any political subdivision to be accessible for individuals with
10 disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for the blind and
11 visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity
12 for access and participation, including privacy and independence,
13 as other voters.

14 (2) At each polling location, at least one voting unit
15 certified by the secretary of state shall provide access to
16 individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

17 (3) Compliance with this provision in regard to voting
18 technology and systems purchased prior to the effective date of
19 this section shall be achieved at the time of procurement of an
20 upgrade of technology compatible with nonvisual voting methods or
21 replacement of existing voting equipment or systems.

22 (4) Compliance with subsections (2) and (3) of this section is
23 contingent on available funds to implement this provision.

24 (5) For purposes of this section, the following definitions
25 apply:

26 (a) Accessible- includes receiving, using, selecting and
27 manipulating voter data and controls.

28 (b) Nonvisual- includes synthesized speech, Braille, and other
29 output methods.

30 (c) "Blind and visually impaired" excludes persons who are both
31 deaf and blind.

32 (6) This section does not apply to voting by absentee ballot."

EFFECT: Clarifies that blind and visually impaired excludes persons that are both blind and deaf. Specifies that equal access in voting participation is limited to voting at a poll site, and does not include absentee voting. The term "upgrade" is specific to an upgrade that is compatible with nonvisual voting technology and the contingency for implementing this section is broadened to cover the upgrades and replacement of equipment.