

SSB 5472 - H AMD 442

By Representative Koster

NOT CONSIDERED 01/05/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 29A.40.160 and 2011 c 10 s 43 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Each county auditor shall open a voting center each primary,
6 special election, and general election. The voting center shall be
7 open during business hours during the voting period, which begins
8 eighteen days before, and ends at 8:00 p.m. on the day of, the
9 primary, special election, or general election.

10 (2) The voting center must provide voter registration materials,
11 ballots, provisional ballots, disability access voting units, sample
12 ballots, instructions on how to properly vote the ballot, a ballot
13 drop box, and voters' pamphlets, if a voters' pamphlet has been
14 published.

15 (3) The voting center must be accessible to persons with
16 disabilities. Each state agency and entity of local government shall
17 permit the use of any of its accessible facilities as voting centers
18 when requested by a county auditor.

19 (4) The voting center must provide at least one voting unit
20 certified by the secretary of state that provides access to
21 individuals who are blind or visually impaired, enabling them to vote
22 with privacy and independence.

23 (5) No person may interfere with a voter attempting to vote in a
24 voting center. Interfering with a voter attempting to vote is a
25 violation of RCW 29A.84.510.

26 (6) Before opening the voting center, the voting equipment shall
27 be inspected to determine if it has been properly prepared for
28 voting. If the voting equipment is capable of direct tabulation of
29 each voter's choices, the county auditor shall verify that no votes
30 have been registered for any issue or office, and that the device has
31 been sealed with a unique numbered seal at the time of final

1 preparation and logic and accuracy testing. A log must be made of all
2 device numbers and seal numbers.

3 (7) The county auditor shall require any person desiring to vote
4 at a voting center to either sign a ballot declaration or provide
5 identification.

6 (a) The signature on the declaration must be compared to the
7 signature on the voter registration record before the ballot may be
8 counted. If the voter registered using a mark, or can no longer sign
9 his or her name, the election officers shall require the voter to be
10 identified by another registered voter.

11 (b) The identification must be valid photo identification, such
12 as a driver's license, state identification card, student
13 identification card, tribal identification card, or employer
14 identification card. Any individual who desires to vote in person but
15 cannot provide identification shall be issued a provisional ballot,
16 which shall be accepted if the signature on the declaration matches
17 the signature on the voter's registration record.

18 (8) Provisional ballots must be accompanied by a declaration and
19 security envelope, as required by RCW 29A.40.091, and space for the
20 voter's name, date of birth, current and former registered address,
21 reason for the provisional ballot, and disposition of the provisional
22 ballot. The voter shall vote and return the provisional ballot at the
23 voting center. The voter must be provided information on how to
24 ascertain whether the provisional ballot was counted and, if
25 applicable, the reason why the vote was not counted.

26 (9) Any voter may take printed or written material into the
27 voting device to assist in casting his or her vote. The voter shall
28 not use this material to electioneer and shall remove it when he or
29 she leaves the voting center.

30 (10) If any voter states that he or she is unable to cast his or
31 her votes due to a disability, the voter may designate a person of
32 his or her choice, or two election officers, to enter the voting
33 booth and record the votes as he or she directs.

34 (11) No voter is entitled to vote more than once at a primary,
35 special election, or general election. If a voter incorrectly marks a
36 ballot, he or she may be issued a replacement ballot.

37 (12) A voter who has already returned a ballot but requests to
38 vote at a voting center shall be issued a provisional ballot. The
39 canvassing board shall not count the provisional ballot if it finds

1 that the voter has also voted a regular ballot in that primary,
2 special election, or general election.

3 (13) The county auditor must prevent overflow of each ballot drop
4 box to allow a voter to deposit his or her ballot securely. Ballots
5 must be removed from a ballot drop box by at least two people, with a
6 record kept of the date and time ballots were removed, and the names
7 of people removing them. Ballots from drop boxes must be returned to
8 the counting center in secured transport containers. A copy of the
9 record must be placed in the container, and one copy must be
10 transported with the ballots to the counting center, where the seal
11 number must be verified by the county auditor or a designated
12 representative. All ballot drop boxes must be secured at 8:00 p.m. on
13 the day of the primary, special election, or general election.

14 (14) Any voter who is inside or in line at the voting center at
15 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary, special election, or general
16 election must be allowed to vote.

17 (15) For each primary, special election, and general election,
18 the county auditor may provide election services at locations in
19 addition to the voting center. The county auditor has discretion to
20 establish which services will be provided at the additional
21 locations, and which days and hours the locations will be open. The
22 county auditor must establish a minimum of one ballot drop box per
23 fifteen thousand registered voters in the county with preference
24 given to establishing a minimum of one ballot drop box in each city,
25 town, and census-designated place with a post office in the county.
26 The county auditor is authorized to place a ballot drop box at any
27 public school, public library, or fire station.

28 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 29A.40
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) The state is responsible for the cost of obtaining, siting,
31 maintaining, and operating ballot drop boxes for all elections. The
32 county auditor must certify the cost and file expense claims to the
33 office of the secretary of state.

34 (2) Each county auditor must submit a request with the office of
35 the secretary of state by December 1st for any new ballot drop boxes
36 the county is requesting for the following year. The secretary of
37 state may agree to reimburse the county for the costs of providing
38 any new ballot drop boxes or contract with a third party to fulfill
39 all or some of the counties' requests.

1 (3) The secretary of state must include in his or her budget
2 requests sufficient funds to carry out this section. Payments for
3 ballot drop box costs must be from appropriations specifically
4 provided by law for that purpose.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018."

6 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Provides a preference, rather than a requirement, for adding ballot drop boxes in each city, town, and census-designated area with a post office.

(2) Authorizes county auditors to place ballot drop boxes at any public school, library, or fire station.

(3) Requires the state to pay for the cost of obtaining, siting, maintaining, and operating ballot drop boxes.

(4) Requires counties to submit a request for new drop boxes to the secretary of state.

(5) Includes an effective date of July 1, 2018.

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