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HOUSE BILL 2527

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, McBride, and Shea

Read first time 01/10/18. Referred to Committee on State Govt,  
Elections & IT.

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluating random check procedures for ballot  
2 counting equipment; and amending RCW 29A.60.170.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.60.170 and 2011 c 10 s 55 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) At least twenty-eight days prior to any special election,  
7 general election, or primary, the county auditor shall request from  
8 the chair of the county central committee of each major political  
9 party a list of individuals who are willing to serve as observers.  
10 The county auditor has discretion to also request observers from any  
11 campaign or organization. The county auditor may delete from the  
12 lists names of those persons who indicate to the county auditor that  
13 they cannot or do not wish to serve as observers, and names of those  
14 persons who, in the judgment of the county auditor, lack the ability  
15 to properly serve as observers after training has been made available  
16 to them by the auditor.

17 (2) The counting center is under the direction of the county  
18 auditor and must be open to observation by one representative from  
19 each major political party, if representatives have been appointed by  
20 the respective major political parties and these representatives are  
21 present while the counting center is operating. The proceedings must

1 be open to the public, but no persons except those employed and  
2 authorized by the county auditor may touch any ballot or ballot  
3 container or operate a vote tallying system.

4 (3) A random check of the ballot counting equipment may be  
5 conducted upon mutual agreement of the political party observers or  
6 at the discretion of the county auditor. The random check procedures  
7 must be adopted by the county canvassing board prior to the  
8 processing of ballots. The random check process shall involve a  
9 comparison of a manual count to the machine count and may involve up  
10 to either three precincts or six batches depending on the ballot  
11 counting procedures in place in the county. The random check will be  
12 limited to one office or issue on the ballots in the precincts or  
13 batches that are selected for the check. The selection of the  
14 precincts or batches to be checked must be selected according to  
15 procedures established by the county canvassing board and the check  
16 must be completed no later than forty-eight hours after election day.

17 (4)(a) By November 1, 2018, the secretary of state shall:

18 (i) For each county, survey all random check procedures adopted  
19 by the county canvassing board under subsection (3) of this section;  
20 and

21 (ii) Evaluate the procedures to identify the best practices and  
22 any discrepancies.

23 (b) By December 1, 2018, the secretary of state shall submit a  
24 report, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, to the appropriate  
25 committees of the legislature that provides recommendations, based on  
26 the evaluation performed under (a) of this subsection, for adopting  
27 best practices and uniform procedures.

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