

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 1624

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Administering educational service district elections.

Sponsors: Representatives Ybarra and Waters.

House Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

Background:

Washington State School Directors' Association.

The Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) is the state agency that provides advice and assistance to local school boards. The WSSDA is charged with coordinating policymaking, control, and management of the state's school districts, and is authorized to prepare and adopt materials for its own organization. The WSSDA also adopts model policies and procedures that school districts may adopt, often in response to legislative directives.

Educational Service Districts.

Washington has nine regionally based Educational Service Districts (ESDs) that provide cooperative informational services to local school districts and assist the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the State Board of Education in the performance of their duties. Among other responsibilities, the ESDs serve as a depository and distribution center for instructional materials, and they assist school districts in the preparation of their budgets. The ESDs are governed by boards of seven or nine members elected by school directors within each of the ESDs.

Legislation adopted in 2022 transferred election administration duties for ESD board member elections, including duties related to candidate filing and voting, from the OSPI to the WSSDA. Declarations of candidacy forms for these elections may only be filed in person or by mail, and all votes in these elections must be cast by mail.

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.

Summary:

Provisions governing the administration of ESD board member elections by the WSSDA are modified by:

- removing a provision requiring that declaration of candidacy forms be filed only in person or by mail; and
- removing provisions requiring that all votes for ESD board members be cast by mail.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	0
Senate	47	1

Effective: July 23, 2023