
HOUSE BILL 1567

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Gregerson and Lekanoff

1 AN ACT Relating to commissioning a study on conservation district
2 election costs under Title 29A RCW; creating a new section; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
6 appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington state
7 institute for public policy shall conduct an examination of the costs
8 associated with conservation district elections under current law,
9 and the projected costs and benefits for shifting conservation
10 district elections to be held on general election ballots under Title
11 29A RCW and making related changes as described below.

12 (2) The examination under this section must specifically include:

13 (a) An analysis of the amount of money that each conservation
14 district spends on holding elections for supervisors under current
15 law, and a description of the funding sources that each conservation
16 district utilizes to fund its elections;

17 (b) Information about voter turnout in each conservation district
18 supervisor election in the past 20 years, and a calculation of the
19 total cost per ballot cast that each conservation district spent in
20 those elections;

1 (c) A projection of the costs that would be expected to be
2 incurred by each county and each conservation district for its
3 supervisor elections if the district were to hold its supervisor
4 elections on general election ballots under the processes and
5 procedures in Title 29A RCW, including:

6 (i) Switching all supervisor positions to elected positions; and

7 (ii) Changing term lengths to four years, with terms staggered
8 such that elections are held every two years, to align with the
9 elections for other local government officials;

10 (d) A projection of the costs that would be expected to be
11 incurred by each county and each conservation district for its
12 supervisor elections if, in addition to the changes described in (c)
13 of this subsection, the conservation districts were divided into
14 zones such that each zone is represented by a single supervisor,
15 rather than electing each supervisor at-large throughout the
16 district; and

17 (e) An overall assessment of other nonmonetary costs and benefits
18 associated with switching conservation district supervisor elections
19 to the general election ballots under Title 29A RCW and incorporating
20 the changes described in (c) and (d) of this subsection.

21 (3) The study must be completed by December 1, 2023, and
22 submitted in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 to the standing committees
23 of the house of representatives and the senate with jurisdiction over
24 elections and conservation district issues.

25 (4) This section expires June 30, 2024.

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