
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1290

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By House Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Representatives Orwall, Hunt, Bergquist, Fitzgibbon, Maxwell, Lytton, McCoy, Ryu, Riccelli, Hudgins, Pollet, Zeiger, Farrell, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to placement of ballot drop boxes; adding new
2 sections to chapter 29A.40 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.40 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Each county auditor or other local election official must place
7 at least one ballot drop box at each public college and university, the
8 branch campuses of Washington State University and the University of
9 Washington, and the main campuses of each public community college and
10 technical college. This requirement is waived if the county already
11 has a ballot drop box within one mile of the campus. Ballot drop boxes
12 may be placed inside a building or outdoors, and must be in place at
13 least eighteen days before the next general election. The
14 administration or an associated student body association may assist
15 with funding the ballot drop boxes provided under this section.

16 (2) The county auditor or election official may install a ballot
17 drop box on any campus, in addition to those required in subsection (1)
18 of this section, if the administration or an associated student body

1 association commits to jointly funding the installation of the ballot
2 drop box.

3 (3) Each county auditor or local election official shall establish
4 and maintain an advisory committee that includes a representative from
5 the Washington student association and a representative from the
6 administration and student government associated with each public
7 college, university, community college, and technical college located
8 in that county. The committee shall assist election officials by:

9 (a) Identifying locations for the ballot drop boxes that will
10 maximize accessibility to students; and

11 (b) Developing an outreach plan that identifies other means to
12 promote students' voting by use of the ballot drop boxes.

13 (4) The requirements of this section do not apply to Western
14 Governors University, which is an online university.

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

17 (1) Within ninety days of the effective date of this section, each
18 county auditor or local election official shall provide a report to the
19 secretary of state's office that includes the following information:

20 (a) The number, type, and location of the county's ballot boxes,
21 including those permanently installed and those installed on a
22 temporary basis in the periods immediately preceding an election; and

23 (b) A description of the methods used to inform voters of the
24 location of the ballot drop boxes.

25 (2) The secretary of state, in consultation with county auditors
26 and county election officials, shall compile the information listed in
27 subsection (1)(a) of this section and develop and implement a plan to
28 provide voter access to drop boxes in every county.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.40 RCW
30 to read as follows:

31 (1) County auditors, local election officials, and the secretary of
32 state must consider Indian reservations, especially those in remote
33 locations, when identifying ballot drop box locations or developing
34 proposals for the placement of ballot drop boxes.

35 (2) Any person who tampers with or destroys a ballot drop box is

1 subject to a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars. The
2 civil penalty imposed in this section is in addition to any other
3 penalties authorized by law.

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