

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5696

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
State & Local Government, February 22, 1999

Title: An act relating to election costs.

Brief Description: Extending state responsibility for election costs.

Sponsors: Senators McCaslin, Gardner, Deccio, Spanel and Haugen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State & Local Government: 2/17/99, 2/22/99 [DP-WM].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Majority Report: Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Patterson, Chair; Gardner, Vice Chair; Haugen, Horn, Kline and McCaslin.

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Background: Whenever state officers or measures are voted upon at a state primary or general election held in an odd numbered year, the state of Washington must assume a prorated share of the election costs of that state primary or general election. The state does not assume these costs in an even numbered year.

Summary of Bill: The state of Washington must assume its prorated costs of a state primary or general election in even as well as odd numbered years.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 9, 1999.

Effective Date: January 1, 2002.

Testimony For: This is an equity issue. It is not fair that counties have to pay for the state's share of election costs in the even-numbered years. The state should pay its share of costs just as it does in the odd-numbered years. The Secretary of State has lowered the state elections' costs over the years so this should not be burdensome for the state to assume these costs.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: PRO: Bob Terwilliger, Suzanne Sinclair, County Auditors Assn.; Jim Potts, Rural Counties; Bill Vogler, WSAC.