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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1357

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State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

**By** House State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Mosbrucker, Gregerson, Chase, and Berry)

READ FIRST TIME 02/15/21.

1 AN ACT Relating to voters' pamphlets for overseas and service  
2 voters; amending RCW 29A.40.020, 29A.32.260, and 29A.72.025; and  
3 creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that service and  
6 overseas voters have the right to vote for their elected officials.  
7 To effectuate this right, service and overseas voters must have  
8 access to the same ballot materials as voters present in the state  
9 with sufficient time to thoughtfully consider candidates and issues  
10 before casting a ballot. Accordingly, the legislature intends to  
11 ensure that voters' pamphlets are available to service and overseas  
12 voters at the same time as the ballot.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.40.020 and 2011 c 10 s 36 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) A request for a ballot from an overseas voter or service  
16 voter must include the address of the last residence in the state of  
17 Washington.

18 (2) An overseas or service voter may also request that the county  
19 auditor mail the voter a local voters' pamphlet and a state voters'  
20 pamphlet, if such pamphlets have been printed for the election.

1       (3) No person, organization, or association may distribute any  
2 ballot materials that contain a return address other than that of the  
3 appropriate county auditor.

4       **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.32.260 and 2011 c 10 s 30 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6       As soon as practicable before the primary, special election, or  
7 general election, the county auditor, or if applicable, the city  
8 clerk of a first-class or code city, as appropriate, shall mail the  
9 local voters' pamphlet to every residence in each jurisdiction that  
10 has included information in the pamphlet, as well as to the ballot  
11 mailing address of every service or overseas voter registered in the  
12 jurisdiction who has requested a voters' pamphlet. The county auditor  
13 or city clerk, as appropriate, may choose to mail the pamphlet to  
14 each registered voter in each jurisdiction that has included  
15 information in the pamphlet, if in his or her judgment, a more  
16 economical and effective distribution of the pamphlet would result. A  
17 local voters' pamphlet mailed to a service or overseas voter under  
18 this section must be accompanied by the state voters' pamphlet, if  
19 one has been printed, and must be sent at the same time as the ballot  
20 or as soon as practicable thereafter.

21       **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.72.025 and 2009 c 415 s 7 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23       The office of financial management, in consultation with the  
24 secretary of state, the attorney general, and any other appropriate  
25 state or local agency, shall prepare a fiscal impact statement for  
26 each of the following state ballot measures: (1) An initiative to the  
27 people that is certified to the ballot; (2) an initiative to the  
28 legislature that will appear on the ballot; (3) an alternative  
29 measure appearing on the ballot that the legislature proposes to an  
30 initiative to the legislature; (4) a referendum bill referred to  
31 voters by the legislature; and (5) a referendum measure appearing on  
32 the ballot. Fiscal impact statements must be written in clear and  
33 concise language, avoid legal and technical terms when possible, and  
34 be filed with the secretary of state no later than (~~the tenth day of~~  
35 ~~August~~) July 15th. Fiscal impact statements may include easily  
36 understood graphics.

37       A fiscal impact statement must describe any projected increase or  
38 decrease in revenues, costs, expenditures, or indebtedness that the

1 state or local governments will experience if the ballot measure were  
2 approved by state voters. Where appropriate, a fiscal impact  
3 statement may include both estimated dollar amounts and a description  
4 placing the estimated dollar amounts into context. A fiscal impact  
5 statement must include both a summary of not to exceed one hundred  
6 words and a more detailed statement that includes the assumptions  
7 that were made to develop the fiscal impacts.

8 Fiscal impact statements must be available online from the  
9 secretary of state's website and included in the state voters'  
10 pamphlet. Additional information may be posted on the website of the  
11 office of financial management.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
13 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
14 provided by June 30, 2022, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
15 act is null and void.

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