
HOUSE BILL 2367

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Crouse, D. Sommers, Sterk, Brown, Fuhrman, Sheahan, McMorris, Mastin, D. Schmidt, Schoesler, Silver, Dellwo, Hargrove, Smith and Benton

Read first time 01/10/96. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to initiative and referendum powers in counties
2 with populations in excess of three hundred fifty thousand; and adding
3 new sections to chapter 36.32 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 36.32 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the
8 voters of any county with a population of three hundred fifty thousand
9 or more that does not operate under a home rule charter shall possess
10 the direct legislative powers through initiative and referendum on any
11 matter within the scope of the powers, functions, or duties of the
12 county.

13 (2) Ordinances of such a county shall become effective thirty days
14 after their adoption, and are subject to a referendum petition being
15 filed during the interim, except:

16 (a) Ordinances initiated by petition;

17 (b) Ordinances necessary for immediate preservation of public
18 peace, health, and safety or for the support of county government and
19 its existing public institutions which contain a statement of urgency

1 and provide that the ordinance becomes effective either immediately
2 upon adoption or at a date less than thirty days after its adoption;

3 (c) Ordinances providing for road improvement districts, local
4 improvement districts, or utility local improvement districts;

5 (d) Ordinances appropriating money;

6 (e) Ordinances providing for or approving collective bargaining;

7 (f) Ordinances providing for the compensation of or working
8 conditions of county employees; or

9 (g) Ordinances authorizing or repealing the levy of taxes.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.32 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 Initiative petitions proposing the adoption of an ordinance must be
13 signed by county registered voters equal in number to at least twenty
14 percent of the number of county voters voting at the last state general
15 election and may not be circulated for more than one hundred eighty
16 days. Referendum petitions must be signed by county registered voters
17 equal in number to at least fifteen percent of the number of county
18 voters voting at the last state general election and must be filed with
19 the county auditor no later than 5:00 p.m., thirty days after the
20 ordinance that is being subjected to referendum was adopted. The
21 petitions shall be filed with the county auditor who shall review the
22 signatures and certify the sufficiency of the signatures. If it
23 appears that the same registered voter signed the petitions more than
24 once, only the first signature shall be counted.

25 The county auditor shall notify the county legislative authority if
26 the initiative petitions are certified as having sufficient valid
27 signatures and the county legislative authority shall either adopt the
28 proposed ordinance, as proposed, or shall cause the initiative to be
29 submitted to county voters for their approval or rejection at the next
30 state general election occurring forty-five or more days after the
31 petitions were certified as having sufficient valid signatures.

32 If the referendum petitions are certified as having sufficient
33 valid signatures, the ordinance that is being subjected to referendum
34 shall not become effective, shall be held in abeyance, and shall be
35 submitted to the county voters for their approval or rejection at the
36 next state general election that occurs forty-five or more days after
37 the petitions were certified as having sufficient valid signatures.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 36.32 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 Each initiative petition shall include the text of the proposed
4 ordinance and shall indicate that an initiative is being proposed.
5 Each referendum petition shall include the text of the ordinance that
6 is proposed to be subjected to referendum and shall indicate that a
7 referendum is being proposed.

8 Each petition shall include numbered lines and provide space on
9 each numbered line for a voter to sign the petition, print his or her
10 name, insert his or her residential address, and indicate the date he
11 or she signed the petition. Each petition shall include the warning
12 that:

13 "Every person who signs this petition with any other than his
14 or her true name, knowingly signs more than one of these
15 petitions, signs this petition when he or she is not a
16 registered voter residing in the county, or makes any false
17 statement on the petition may be punished by fine or
18 imprisonment or both."

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 36.32 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 An ordinance that is submitted to voters as a initiative measure,
22 or that is referred to voters as a referendum measure, shall be adopted
23 if approved by a simple majority vote of county voters voting on the
24 ballot measure. Unless the ordinance provides for a differing
25 effective date, an ordinance that is approved by county voters shall
26 become effective on the date the results of the election are certified
27 that voters approved the ordinance.

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