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HOUSE BILL 2599

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representative Stevens

Read first time 01/15/96. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to restrictions on mailings by incumbents; and  
2 amending RCW 42.17.132.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.17.132 and 1995 c 397 s 5 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 During the twelve-month period preceding the last day for  
7 certification of the election results for ~~((a state legislator's))~~ an  
8 elected official's election to office, the ~~((legislator))~~ elected  
9 official may not mail to a constituent at public expense a letter,  
10 newsletter, brochure, or other piece of literature except as provided  
11 in this section. During this period the elected official may not  
12 present a public service announcement by print or broadcast media or  
13 other electronic media.

14 ~~((The))~~ During the twelve-month period before an election in which  
15 a state or local agency director is a candidate, the director may not  
16 mail to a constituent at public expense a letter, newsletter, brochure,  
17 or other piece of literature except as provided in this section.  
18 During this period the director may not present a public service  
19 announcement by print or broadcast media or other electronic media.

1        A state legislator may mail one mailing no later than thirty days  
2 after the start of a regular legislative session and one mailing no  
3 later than sixty days after the end of a regular legislative session of  
4 identical newsletters to constituents.

5        (~~The legislator~~) An elected official or state or local agency  
6 director may mail an individual letter to an individual constituent who  
7 (1) has contacted the (~~legislator~~) elected official or director  
8 regarding the subject matter of the letter during the legislator's  
9 current term of office; or (2) holds a governmental office with  
10 jurisdiction over the subject matter of the letter.

11        A violation of this section constitutes use of the facilities of a  
12 public office for the purpose of assisting a campaign under RCW  
13 42.17.130 and 42.52.180.

14        The house of representatives and senate shall specifically limit  
15 expenditures per member for the total cost of mailings, including but  
16 not limited to production costs, printing costs, and postage.

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