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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6330**

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**State of Washington****54th Legislature****1996 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Strannigan, Haugen, Schow, Zarelli, McCaslin, Swecker, McDonald, Finkbeiner, Hargrove, Long, Roach, Heavey, Smith, Johnson, West, A. Anderson, Wood and Oke)

Read first time 02/02/96.

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

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 produce or distribute through the use of public facilities a public  
13 service announcement by print or broadcast media or other electronic  
14 media. However, the office may in the normal performance of its duties  
15 issue public service announcements that are not in the name of the  
16 official.

17 ~~((The))~~ During the twelve-month period before the last day for  
18 certification of the results of an election in which a state or local  
19 agency director is a candidate, the director may not mail to a

1 constituent at public expense a letter, newsletter, brochure, or other  
2 piece of literature except as provided in this section. During this  
3 period the director may not produce or distribute through the use of  
4 public facilities a public service announcement by print or broadcast  
5 media or other electronic media. However, the agency may in the normal  
6 performance of its duties issue public service announcements that are  
7 not in the name of the director.

8 A state legislator may mail one mailing no later than thirty days  
9 after the start of a regular legislative session and one mailing no  
10 later than sixty days after the end of a regular legislative session of  
11 identical newsletters to constituents.

12 ((The legislator)) An elected official or state or local agency  
13 director may mail an individual letter to an individual constituent who  
14 (1) has contacted the ((legislator)) elected official or director  
15 regarding the subject matter of the letter during the legislator's  
16 current term of office; or (2) holds a governmental office with  
17 jurisdiction over the subject matter of the letter.

18 A violation of this section constitutes use of the facilities of a  
19 public office for the purpose of assisting a campaign under RCW  
20 42.17.130 and 42.52.180.

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

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
26 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
27 immediately.

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