
SENATE BILL 6591

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Drew, Haugen, Hale, Spanel, Sheldon, Smith, Winsley, Goings, Finkbeiner and Snyder

Read first time 01/18/96. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to offering payments through initiative measures;
2 amending RCW 29.79.490; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.79.490 and 1993 c 256 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Every person shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor who:

7 ~~((1))~~ (a) For any consideration or gratuity or promise thereof,
8 signs or declines to sign any initiative or referendum petition; or

9 ~~((2))~~ (b) Provides or receives consideration for soliciting or
10 procuring signatures on an initiative or referendum petition if any
11 part of the consideration is based upon the number of signatures
12 solicited or procured, or offers to provide or agrees to receive such
13 consideration any of which is based on the number of signatures
14 solicited or procured; or

15 ~~((3))~~ (c) Gives or offers any consideration or gratuity to any
16 person to induce him or her to sign or not to sign or to vote for or
17 against any initiative or referendum measure; or

18 ~~((4))~~ (d) Interferes with or attempts to interfere with the right
19 of any voter to sign or not to sign an initiative or referendum

1 petition or with the right to vote for or against an initiative or
2 referendum measure by threats, intimidation, or any other corrupt means
3 or practice; or

4 ~~((+5))~~ (e) Receives, handles, distributes, pays out, or gives
5 away, directly or indirectly, money or any other thing of value
6 contributed by or received from any person, firm, association, or
7 corporation whose residence or principal office is, or the majority of
8 whose members or stockholders have their residence outside, the state
9 of Washington, for any service rendered for the purpose of aiding in
10 procuring signatures upon any initiative or referendum petition or for
11 the purpose of aiding in the adoption or rejection of any initiative or
12 referendum measure: PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not apply to
13 or prohibit any activity which is properly reported in accordance with
14 the applicable provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW.

15 (2) An initiative measure that by its terms provides for the direct
16 payment of money to any citizens of this state, other than by way of
17 reduction of taxes or fees imposed by a governmental entity, raises a
18 presumption that it violates subsection (1)(c) of this section.

19 (3) A gross misdemeanor under this section is punishable to the
20 same extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable under RCW
21 9A.20.021.

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