
SENATE BILL 6661

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Pelz, Haugen and Sheldon

Read first time 01/23/96. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to paid initiative and referendum signature
2 gatherers; 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 Every person shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor who:

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (6) Solicits or procures signatures for an initiative or referendum
16 petition for consideration without wearing a notice visible to the
17 public that contains the following statement: "I am a paid signature
18 gatherer."

19 The public disclosure commission must by rule establish standards
20 for the size and design of the notice.

21 A gross misdemeanor under this section is punishable to the same
22 extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

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