
SENATE BILL 5680

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Strannigan, Heavey, Wood, Benton, Johnson, Deccio, Morton, Sellar, Rossi, Hargrove, Stevens, Zarelli, Swecker and Hochstatter

Read first time 02/07/97. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

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 elected official's or director's current term of office; or (2) holds
17 a governmental office with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the
18 letter.

19 A violation of this section constitutes use of the facilities of a
20 public office for the purpose of assisting a campaign under RCW
21 42.17.130 and 42.52.180.

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

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

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