
HOUSE BILL 2635

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representative Romero

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to special elections to authorize increases in
2 taxes, rates, or other monetary charges as required by Initiative
3 Measure No. 695; adding a new section to chapter 29.13 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The purpose of this act is to respond to the
7 requirements of Initiative Measure No. 695 that require voter approval
8 of increases in taxes, rates, and other monetary charges by allowing
9 ballot propositions for such purposes to be submitted to voters at
10 special elections held at any date if the election is conducted using
11 mail ballots. Mail ballot elections are less costly than traditional
12 elections, and more voters cast ballots when elections are conducted
13 using mail ballots than when conducted using traditional polling place
14 voting. To further reduce costs, local governments and state agencies
15 are encouraged to submit such ballot propositions at special elections
16 held on the same day. It is further the purpose of this act to
17 encourage these special elections to be held at dates other than the
18 traditional special election, primary, and general election dates to
19 avoid extremely long ballots when voters are considering other matters.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29.13 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The governing body of a county, city, town, or special purpose
4 district may cause one or more ballot propositions to be submitted for
5 voters authorizing an increase in a tax, fee, or other monetary charge
6 at a special election conducted by mail ballot. A single ballot
7 proposition may authorize a single or multiple increases.
8 Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020, the
9 special election may be held on any date.

10 (2) A state agency may cause one or more ballot propositions to be
11 submitted to voters state-wide authorizing an increase in a fee or
12 other monetary charge at a special election conducted by mail ballot,
13 if the state agency pays for the cost of the election out of its
14 current budget. A single ballot proposition may authorize a single or
15 multiple increases. Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 29.13.010
16 and 29.13.020, the special election may be held on any date.

17 (3) A resolution by a local government requesting such a special
18 election must be presented to the county auditor at least forty-five
19 days before the specified election date. The county auditor must call
20 the special election to be held on the date specified in the
21 resolution. A notice by a state agency requesting such a special
22 election must be presented to the secretary of state at least forty-
23 five days before the specified election date. The secretary of state
24 must call the special election to be held on the date specified in the
25 notice.

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