
SENATE BILL 6571

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Gardner, Fraser, Winsley, Keiser, McCaslin, Hargrove, Regala, Shin, Jacobsen, Snyder, Poulsen, Costa, B. Sheldon, Kastama, Spanel, Haugen, Fairley, Thibaudeau, McAuliffe, Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles and Oke

Read first time 01/22/2002. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to information about ballot measures; amending RCW
2 29.81.250; and adding a new section to chapter 29.79 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29.79 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The office of financial management, in consultation with the
7 secretary of state, the attorney general, and any other appropriate
8 state or local agency, shall prepare a fiscal impact statement for each
9 of the following state ballot measures: (1) An initiative to the
10 people that is certified to the ballot; (2) an initiative to the
11 legislature that will appear on the ballot; (3) an alternative measure
12 appearing on the ballot that the legislature proposes to an initiative
13 to the legislature; (4) a referendum bill referred to voters by the
14 legislature; and (5) a referendum measure appearing on the ballot.
15 Fiscal impact statements must be written in clear and concise language
16 and avoid legal and technical terms when possible, and may include
17 easily understood graphics.

18 A fiscal impact statement must describe any projected increase or
19 decrease in revenues, costs, expenditures, or indebtedness that the

1 state or local governments will experience if the ballot measure were
2 approved by state voters. Where appropriate, a fiscal impact statement
3 may include both estimated dollar amounts and a description placing the
4 estimated dollar amounts into context. A fiscal impact statement must
5 include both a summary of not to exceed one hundred words and a more
6 detailed statement that includes the assumptions that were made to
7 develop the fiscal impacts.

8 Fiscal impact statements must be available online from the
9 secretary of state's web site and included in the state voters'
10 pamphlet.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.81.250 and 1999 c 260 s 5 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of the
14 voters' pamphlet. The secretary of state shall print the pamphlet in
15 clear, readable type on a size, quality, and weight of paper that in
16 the judgment of the secretary of state best serves the voters. The
17 pamphlet must contain a table of contents. Federal and state offices
18 must appear in the pamphlet in the same sequence as they appear on the
19 ballot. Measures and arguments must be printed in the order specified
20 by RCW 29.79.300.

21 The voters' pamphlet must provide the following information for
22 each statewide issue on the ballot:

23 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation
24 or number;

25 (2) The official ballot title of the measure;

26 (3) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the law
27 as it presently exists;

28 (4) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the
29 effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;

30 (5) The fiscal impact statement prepared under section 1 of this
31 act;

32 (6) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure in
33 the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has been passed
34 by the legislature;

35 ~~((+6))~~ (7) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the
36 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing
37 argument;

1 (~~(7)~~) (8) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the
2 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing
3 argument;

4 (~~(8)~~) (9) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed by
5 the names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be
6 followed by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain
7 information on the ballot measure;

8 (~~(9)~~) (10) The full text of each measure.

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