
HOUSE BILL 1087

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Jarrett, Haigh, Hudgins, Hasegawa, Green, Hurst, McDermott, Hunt, Dickerson, Darneille, Simpson, Flannigan, O'Brien, Upthegrove, Eddy, Williams, Kirby, Goodman, Roberts, Walsh, Campbell, Wallace, Eickmeyer, Dunshee, Conway, Sommers, Rolfes, Haler, Takko, Pedersen, Chase, Sells, Ormsby, Schual-Berke, Kenney, Springer, Moeller, Wood and Santos

Read first time 01/10/2007. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to payment of petition signature gatherers; adding
2 a new section to chapter 29A.84 RCW; creating a new section; and
3 prescribing penalties.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the preservation
6 of the integrity of the initiative and referendum process is of utmost
7 importance to the citizens of Washington. In *Prete v. Bradbury*, the
8 court of appeals for the ninth circuit concluded that an Oregon law
9 banning payment of electoral petition signature gatherers on a per-
10 signature basis is not per se unconstitutional. Courts of appeals for
11 the second and eighth circuits have upheld laws banning payment per-
12 signature in New York and North Dakota as well.

13 The legislature finds that paying workers based on the number of
14 signatures obtained on an initiative or referendum petition increases
15 the possibility of fraud in the signature gathering process. This
16 practice may encourage the signature gatherer to misrepresent a ballot
17 measure, to apply undue pressure on a person to sign a petition that
18 the person is not qualified to sign, to encourage signing even if the

1 person has previously signed, or to invite forgery. To protect the
2 process from fraudulent practices, compensation per-signature needs to
3 be addressed in Washington.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.84 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 A person who pays or receives consideration based on the number of
7 signatures obtained on an initiative or referendum petition is guilty
8 of a misdemeanor punishable to the same extent as a misdemeanor that is
9 punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

--- END ---