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HOUSE BILL 1943

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Representatives Campbell, Smith and Pelesky

Read first time 02/15/95. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to voters' pamphlets; and amending RCW 29.81A.010  
2 and 29.81A.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.81A.010 and 1984 c 106 s 3 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 At least ninety days before any primary or general election, or at  
7 least forty days before any special election held under RCW 29.13.010  
8 or 29.13.020, the legislative authority of any county or first-class or  
9 code city may adopt an ordinance authorizing the publication and  
10 distribution of a local voters' pamphlet, and may do so without  
11 obtaining permission from the secretary of state. The pamphlet shall  
12 provide information on all measures within that jurisdiction and may,  
13 if specified in the ordinance, include information on candidates within  
14 that jurisdiction. If both a county and a first-class or code city  
15 within that county authorize a local voters' pamphlet for the same  
16 election, the pamphlet shall be produced jointly by the county and the  
17 first-class or code city. If no agreement can be reached between the  
18 county and first-class or code city, the county and first-class or code  
19 city may each produce a pamphlet. Any ordinance adopted authorizing a

1 local voters' pamphlet may be for a specific primary, special election,  
2 or general election or for any future primaries or elections. The  
3 format of any local voters' pamphlet shall, whenever applicable, comply  
4 with the provisions of chapters 29.80 and 29.81 RCW regarding the  
5 publication of the state candidates' and voters' pamphlets.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.81A.020 and 1994 c 191 s 1 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 (1) Not later than ninety days before the publication and  
9 distribution of a local voters' pamphlet by a county, the county  
10 auditor shall notify each city, town, or special taxing district  
11 located wholly within that county that a pamphlet will be produced.

12 (2) If a voters' pamphlet is published by the county for a primary  
13 or general election, the pamphlet shall be published for the elective  
14 offices and ballot measures of the county and for the elective offices  
15 and ballot measures of each unit of local government located entirely  
16 within the county which will appear on the ballot at that primary or  
17 election. However, the offices and measures of a first class or code  
18 city shall not be included in the pamphlet if the city publishes and  
19 distributes its own voters' pamphlet for the primary or election for  
20 its offices and measures. The offices and measures of any other town  
21 or city are not required to appear in the county's pamphlet if the town  
22 or city is obligated by ordinance or charter to publish and distribute  
23 a voters' pamphlet for the primary or election for its offices and  
24 measures and it does so.

25 If the required appearance in a county's voters' pamphlet of the  
26 offices or measures of a unit of local government would create (~~undue~~  
27 ~~{undue}~~) undue financial hardship for the unit of government, the  
28 legislative authority of the unit may petition the legislative  
29 authority of the county to waive this requirement. The legislative  
30 authority of the county may provide such a waiver if it does so not  
31 later than sixty days before the publication of the pamphlet and it  
32 finds that the requirement would create such hardship.

33 (3) If a city, town, or district is located within more than one  
34 county, the respective county auditors may enter into an interlocal  
35 agreement to permit the distribution of each county's local voters'  
36 pamphlet into those parts of the city, town, or district located  
37 outside of that county.

1 (4) If a first-class or code city authorizes the production and  
2 distribution of a local voters' pamphlet, the city clerk of that city  
3 shall notify any special taxing district located wholly within that  
4 city that a pamphlet will be produced. Notification shall be provided  
5 in the manner required or provided for in subsection (1) of this  
6 section.

7 (5) A unit of local government located within a county and the  
8 county may enter into an interlocal agreement for the publication of a  
9 voters' pamphlet for offices or measures not required by subsection (2)  
10 of this section to appear in a county's pamphlet.

11 (6) The county auditor does not need authorization from the  
12 secretary of state in order to furnish a copy of the state-wide voters'  
13 pamphlet, along with the local voters' pamphlet, to county residents.

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