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HOUSE BILL 1543

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Doumit, Buck, H. Sommers, G. Chandler, Morris, Clements, Kessler, Cox, Tokuda, Sump, Dickerson, Ballasiotes, Schual-Berke, Pennington, Kenney, Lisk, McIntire, D. Schmidt, Fisher, Cody, Mulliken, Kagi, Benson, Gombosky, O'Brien, Pflug, Alexander, Anderson, Edmonds, Edwards, Wood and Ruderman

Read first time 01/29/2001. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to determining the fiscal impact of certain ballot  
2 measures; amending RCW 29.81.250 and 29.81.270; and adding new sections  
3 to chapter 29.81 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 29.81 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The director of financial management, in consultation with the  
8 secretary of state and the legislative fiscal committees, shall prepare  
9 a fiscal impact statement for each of the following state ballot  
10 measures:

11 (a) An initiative to the people that is certified to the ballot;

12 (b) An initiative to the legislature that will appear on the  
13 ballot;

14 (c) An alternative measure appearing on the ballot that the  
15 legislature proposes to an initiative to the legislature;

16 (d) A referendum bill referred to voters by the legislature; and

17 (e) A referendum measure appearing on the ballot.

1 (2) Fiscal impact statements must be written in clear and concise  
2 language and avoid legal and technical terms when possible, and they  
3 may include easily understood graphics.

4 (3) A fiscal impact statement must describe any projected increase  
5 or decrease in revenues, costs, expenditures, or indebtedness that the  
6 state or any local government will experience if the ballot measure is  
7 approved by state voters. Where appropriate, a fiscal impact statement  
8 may include both estimated dollar amounts and a description placing the  
9 estimated dollar amounts into context.

10 (4) A fiscal impact statement must include both a summary of not to  
11 exceed one hundred words and a more detailed statement that includes  
12 the assumptions that were made to develop the fiscal impacts.

13 (5) Fiscal impact statements must be available online from the  
14 secretary of state's web site and included in the state voters'  
15 pamphlet.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29.81 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) For initiatives to the people that are certified to the ballot,  
19 initiatives to the legislature that will appear on the ballot, and for  
20 any alternative measure appearing on the ballot that the legislature  
21 proposes to an initiative to the legislature, the director of financial  
22 management shall certify whether or not the measure has a projected  
23 substantial fiscal impact on the state or any local government. The  
24 director shall make the certification after preparing the fiscal impact  
25 statement required by section 1 of this act.

26 (2)(a) For purposes of this section, a measure has "substantial  
27 fiscal impact" if the fiscal impact statement prepared by the office of  
28 financial management determines that the measure would result in any of  
29 the following, either in the fiscal year in which the measure takes  
30 effect or in the following fiscal year:

31 (i) The revenues of any state or any local government fund are  
32 increased or decreased by the lesser of (A) twenty million dollars or  
33 (B) ten percent of the fund's revenue in the prior fiscal year; or

34 (ii) The measure obligates the state or any local government to  
35 incur from any fund expenditures in excess of the lesser of (A) twenty  
36 million dollars or (B) ten percent of the fund's revenue in the prior  
37 fiscal year.

1 (b) For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and for each fiscal  
2 year thereafter, the amounts in (a)(i)(A) and (ii)(A) of this  
3 subsection shall increase by the fiscal growth factor in RCW  
4 43.135.025(7).

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.81.250 and 1999 c 260 s 5 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

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

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

17 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation  
18 or number;

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

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

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

24 (5) A fiscal impact statement prepared by the director of financial  
25 management under section 1 of this act, along with a statement of  
26 whether or not the office of financial management certified the  
27 measure's fiscal impact to be substantial as defined in section 2(2) of  
28 this act;

29 (6) For measures listed in section 2(1) of this act for which the  
30 office of financial management has certified a substantial fiscal  
31 impact as defined in section 2(2) of this act, a statement of whether  
32 passage of the measure requires more than a majority of the votes cast  
33 thereon, pursuant to Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution;

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

1       (~~(6)~~) (8) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the  
2 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing  
3 argument;

4       (~~(7)~~) (9) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the  
5 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing  
6 argument;

7       (~~(8)~~) (10) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed  
8 by the names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be  
9 followed by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain  
10 information on the ballot measure;

11       (~~(9)~~) (11) The full text of each measure.

12       **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.81.270 and 1999 c 260 s 7 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14       The secretary of state shall adopt rules setting deadlines for  
15 submitting candidate statements, candidate photographs, arguments,  
16 rebuttals, fiscal impact statements, certifications of substantial  
17 fiscal impact, and explanatory statements. The secretary of state  
18 shall also adopt rules setting deadlines for filing ballot titles for  
19 referendum bills or constitutional amendments if none have been  
20 provided by the legislature.

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