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SENATE BILL 5347

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Rivers and Roach

Read first time 01/28/13. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to assuring the people's right to vote on  
2 initiatives that submit sufficient valid voter signatures; and adding  
3 a new section to chapter 29A.72 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 29A.72 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 Any state or local initiative for which sufficient valid voter  
8 signatures are submitted within the time period required must be  
9 submitted to a vote of the people at the next election date. The  
10 people are guaranteed the right to vote on any initiative that obtains  
11 the required number of valid voter signatures in the required time  
12 frame. Government officials, both elected and unelected, must  
13 facilitate and cannot obstruct the processing of any initiative  
14 petition and must facilitate and cannot obstruct the public vote of any  
15 initiative. For local initiatives, government officials must, in all  
16 circumstances, strictly comply with the requirements of this section  
17 for any initiative regardless of its subject matter. The term "local  
18 legislative authority" must be construed to include the people via  
19 local initiative regardless of the subject matter of the ballot

1 measure. Citizens have just as much right to decide issues with local  
2 initiatives as governments do. This section may not be construed in  
3 any way to impede the right to legal review of the sufficiency of valid  
4 voter signatures or postelection legal review; however, under no  
5 circumstances may an initiative be prohibited from submission to the  
6 people for a vote if sufficient valid voter signatures are submitted.

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