
HOUSE BILL 2459

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Gregerson, Ramos, and Pollet

Read first time 01/23/24. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring public investment impact disclosures
2 for certain alternative measures proposed by the legislature to
3 initiatives to the legislature; and amending RCW 29A.72.027.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.72.027 and 2022 c 114 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The attorney general must prepare a public investment impact
8 disclosure for any ballot measure that:

9 (a) Repeals, levies, or modifies any tax or fee, including
10 changing the scope or application of an existing tax or fee; and

11 (b) Has a fiscal impact statement, as provided by RCW 29A.72.025,
12 that shows that adoption of the measure would cause a net change in
13 state revenue.

14 (2) When an initiative to the legislature requires a public
15 investment impact disclosure under subsection (1) of this section,
16 and the legislature passes an alternative measure to that initiative
17 that does not require a public investment impact disclosure because
18 it does not cause a net change in state revenue, the attorney general
19 must prepare a public investment impact disclosure to describe the
20 investments that will be maintained if the alternative measure is
21 adopted instead of the initiative.

1 (3) The public investment impact disclosure must include a
2 description of the investments that will be affected if the measure
3 is adopted. The description must be sufficiently broad to reflect the
4 subject of the investments that will be impacted by the change in
5 revenue that will result from adoption of the measure, but also
6 sufficiently precise to give notice of the subject matter of the
7 investments that will be impacted by the change in revenue that will
8 result from adoption of the measure. The description may not exceed
9 10 words, unless the fiscal impact is primarily to the state general
10 fund, in which case the description must list the top three
11 categories of state services funded by the general fund in the
12 current state budget and may not exceed 15 words. The attorney
13 general may consult with the office of financial management or any
14 other state or local agencies as necessary to procure accurate
15 information to draft the description. The description of services in
16 a public investment impact disclosure for an alternative measure
17 under subsection (2) of this section must match the description of
18 services in the disclosure for the initiative to the legislature.

19 ~~((3))~~ (4) The format of the public investment impact
20 disclosure, as it appears on the ballot, is:

21 "This measure would (increase, maintain, or decrease) funding for
22 (description of services)."

23 ~~((4))~~ (5) In drafting the public investment impact disclosure,
24 the attorney general must use neutral language that cannot reasonably
25 be expected to create prejudice for or against the measure. The
26 language of the disclosure is not subject to appeal, except as
27 provided in chapter 114, Laws of 2022.

28 ~~((5))~~ (6) The attorney general must file the public investment
29 impact disclosure with the secretary of state no later than July
30 23rd.

31 ~~((6))~~ (7) The secretary of state must certify the public
32 investment impact disclosure and timely transmit it to each county
33 auditor for its inclusion on the ballot.

34 ~~((7))~~ (8) Public investment impact disclosures are not
35 considered part of the ballot title under this chapter and are not
36 subject to any of the legal requirements for ballot titles.

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