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SENATE BILL 6080

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Senators L. Smith, McCaslin, Metcalf, Stratton, Saling, Oke, Thorsness, Sellar and Craswell

Read first time 01/15/92. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to explanatory statements regarding ballot  
2 measures; and amending RCW 29.81.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.81.020 and 1973 1st ex.s. c 143 s 2 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The attorney general shall prepare the explanatory statements  
7 required to be presented on the top portion of the two facing pages  
8 relating to each measure. Such statements shall be prepared in clear  
9 and concise language, shall include a summary of any sections of law to  
10 be repealed, and shall avoid the use of legal and other technical terms  
11 insofar as possible. Any person dissatisfied with the explanatory  
12 statement so prepared may at any time within ten days from the filing  
13 thereof in the office of the secretary of state appeal to the superior  
14 court of Thurston county by petition setting forth the measure, the

1 explanatory statement prepared by the attorney general, and his  
2 objection thereto and praying for the amendment thereof. A copy of the  
3 petition and a notice of such appeal shall be served on the secretary  
4 of state and the attorney general. The court shall, upon filing of the  
5 petition, examine the measure, the explanatory statement, and the  
6 objections thereto and may hear argument thereon and shall, as soon as  
7 possible, render its decision and certify to and file with the  
8 secretary of state such explanatory statement as it determines will  
9 meet the requirements of this chapter. The decision of the superior  
10 court shall be final and its explanatory statement shall be the  
11 established explanatory statement. Such appeal shall be heard without  
12 costs to either party.

13 (2) Arguments and rebuttal statements advocating the voters'  
14 approval or rejection of any measure shall be prepared and submitted  
15 for printing by the committees created pursuant to RCW 29.81.030,  
16 29.81.040, and 29.81.050. Such arguments and rebuttal statements shall  
17 be the arguments and rebuttal statements and no other arguments or  
18 rebuttal statements shall appear in the pamphlet as to such measure.  
19 Arguments may contain graphs and charts, supported by factual  
20 statistical data and pictures or other illustrations, but cartoons or  
21 caricatures shall not be permitted.