
SENATE BILL 6468

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1992 Regular Session

By Senators Metcalf, Bailey and Thorsness

Read first time 02/03/92. Referred to Committee on Governmental Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to ballot access for elected officials; adding a
2 new section to chapter 43.01 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.04
3 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 29.68 RCW; adding a new section to
4 chapter 29.51 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 29.15 RCW; adding a
5 new section to chapter 7.16 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The people of the state of Washington
8 find that:

9 (1) The people will best be served by citizen legislators who are
10 subject to a reasonable degree of rotation in office;

11 (2) Entrenched incumbents have become indifferent to the conditions
12 and concerns of the people;

1 (3) Entrenched incumbents have an inordinate advantage in elections
2 because of their control of campaign finance laws and gerrymandering of
3 electoral districts;

4 (4) Entrenched incumbency has discouraged qualified citizens from
5 seeking public office;

6 (5) Entrenched incumbents have become preoccupied with their own
7 reelection and devote more effort to campaigning than to making
8 legislative decisions for the benefit of the people;

9 (6) Entrenched incumbents have become closely aligned with special
10 interest groups who provide contributions and support for their
11 reelection campaigns, give entrenched incumbents special favors, and
12 lobby office holders for special interest legislation to the detriment
13 of the people of this state, and may create corruption or the
14 appearance of corruption of the legislative system;

15 (7) The people of Washington have a compelling interest in
16 preventing the self-perpetuating monopoly of elective office by a
17 dynastic ruling class.

18 The people of the state of Washington therefore adopt this act to
19 limit ballot access of candidates for state and federal elections.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.01 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) No person is eligible to appear on the ballot or file a
23 declaration of candidacy for governor who, by the end of the then
24 current term of office will have served, or but for resignation would
25 have served, as governor during eight of the previous fourteen years.

26 (2) No person is eligible to appear on the ballot or file a
27 declaration of candidacy for lieutenant governor who, by the end of the
28 then current term of office will have served, or but for resignation

1 would have served, as lieutenant governor during eight of the previous
2 fourteen years.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) No person is eligible to appear on the ballot or file a
6 declaration of candidacy for the house of representatives of the
7 legislature who, by the end of the then current term of office will
8 have served, or but for resignation would have served, as a member of
9 the house of representatives of the legislature during six of the
10 previous twelve years.

11 (2) No person is eligible to appear on the ballot or file a
12 declaration of candidacy for the senate of the legislature who, by the
13 end of the then current term of office will have served, or but for
14 resignation would have served, as a member of the senate of the
15 legislature during eight of the previous fourteen years.

16 (3) No person is eligible to appear on the ballot or file a
17 declaration of candidacy for the legislature who has served as a member
18 of the legislature for fourteen of the previous twenty years.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 29.68 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 No person is eligible to appear on the ballot or file a declaration
22 of candidacy for the United States house of representatives who, by the
23 end of the then current term of office will have served, or but for
24 resignation would have served, as a member of the United States house
25 of representatives during six of the previous twelve years.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 29.68 RCW
27 to read as follows:

1 No person is eligible to appear on the ballot or file a declaration
2 of candidacy for the United States senate who, by the end of the then
3 current term of office will have served, or but for resignation would
4 have served, as a member of the United States senate during twelve of
5 the previous eighteen years.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 29.51 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 Nothing in sections 2 through 5 of this act prohibits a qualified
9 voter of this state from casting a ballot for any person by writing the
10 name of that person on the ballot in accordance with RCW 29.51.170 or
11 from having such a ballot counted or tabulated, nor does anything in
12 sections 2 through 5 of this act prohibit a person from standing or
13 campaigning for an elective office by means of a write-in campaign.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 29.15 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) The secretary of state or other election official authorized by
17 law shall not accept or verify the signatures, nor accept a declaration
18 of candidacy or a nomination paper, from or on behalf of a person who,
19 by reason of sections 2 through 5 of this act, is ineligible for the
20 office, nor allow the person's name to appear on the ballot.

21 (2) No terms or years served in office before November 3, 1992, may
22 be used to determine eligibility to appear on the ballot.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 29.68 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 Sections 4 and 5 of this act, regarding candidates for federal
26 legislative office, are not effective until the secretary of state
27 certifies that nine states other than Washington have passed laws

1 limiting ballot access or terms of federal legislative office, or both,
2 based on length of service in federal legislative office.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 7.16 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Any resident of this state may bring suit to enforce sections 2
6 through 8 of this act. If the person prevails, the court shall award
7 the person reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** If any provision of this act or its
9 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
10 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
11 persons or circumstances is not affected.