

2 HB 1645 - S AMD  
3 By Senator Haugen

4 ADOPTED 4/14/93

5 On page 6, after line 13, insert the following:

6 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 29.79 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) Except as provided to the contrary in RCW 82.14.036, 82.46.021,  
9 or 82.80.090, the ballot title of any referendum filed on an enactment  
10 or portion of an enactment of the state legislature or of the  
11 legislative authority of a unit of local government shall be composed  
12 of three elements: (a) An identification of the enacting legislative  
13 body; (b) a concise statement identifying the essential features of the  
14 enactment on which the referendum is filed; and (c) a question asking  
15 the voters whether the enactment should be approved or rejected by the  
16 people. The ballot issue shall be displayed on the ballot  
17 substantially as follows:

18 Referendum Measure No. XX. The (name of legislative body) has passed  
19 a law that (concise statement). Should this law be

20 APPROVED .....

21 OR

22 REJECTED .....

23 (2) For a referendum measure on a state enactment, the concise  
24 statement shall be prepared by the attorney general and shall not  
25 exceed twenty-five words.

26 (3) The concise statement for a referendum measure on an enactment  
27 of the legislative authority of a unit of local government shall not  
28 exceed seventy-five words. If the local governmental unit is a city or  
29 a town, the concise statement shall be prepared by the city or town  
30 attorney. If the local governmental unit is a county, the concise  
31 statement shall be prepared by the prosecuting attorney of the county.  
32 If the unit is a unit of local government other than a city, town, or  
33 county, the concise statement shall be prepared by the prosecuting  
34 attorney of the county within which the majority area of the unit is  
35 located.

1 (4) A referendum measure on the enactment of a unit of local  
2 government shall be advertised in the manner provided for nominees for  
3 elective office.

4 **Sec. 8.** RCW 29.27.060 and 1985 c 252 s 1 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) When a proposed constitution or constitutional amendment or  
7 other question is to be submitted to the people of the state for state-  
8 wide popular vote, the attorney general shall prepare a concise  
9 statement posed as a question and not exceeding twenty words containing  
10 the essential features thereof expressed in such a manner as to clearly  
11 identify the proposition to be voted upon.

12 Questions to be submitted to the people of a county or municipality  
13 shall also be advertised as provided for nominees for office, and in  
14 such cases there shall also be printed on the ballot a concise  
15 statement posed as a question and not exceeding seventy-five words  
16 containing the essential features thereof expressed in such a manner as  
17 to clearly identify the proposition to be voted upon, which statement  
18 shall be prepared by the city or town attorney for the city or town,  
19 and by the prosecuting attorney for the county or any other (~~political~~  
20 ~~subdivision of the state~~) unit of local government, other than  
21 (~~cities~~) a city or town, the majority area of which is situated in  
22 the county.

23 The concise statement constitutes the ballot title.

24 (2) The secretary of state shall certify to the county auditors the  
25 ballot title for a proposed constitution, constitutional amendment or  
26 other state-wide question at the same time and in the same manner as  
27 the ballot titles to initiatives and referendums.

28 (3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to referendum  
29 measures filed on an enactment of the state legislature or on an  
30 enactment of the legislative authority of a unit of local government,  
31 nor does it apply to the extent that other provisions of state law  
32 provide otherwise for a specific type of ballot question or  
33 proposition.

34 **Sec. 9.** RCW 29.79.040 and 1982 c 116 s 4 are each amended to read  
35 as follows:

36 Within seven calendar days after the receipt of an initiative or  
37 referendum measure the attorney general shall formulate and transmit to

1 the secretary of state ((a)) the concise statement ((posed as a  
2 question and not to exceed twenty words,)) required by RCW 29.27.060 or  
3 section 7 of this act bearing the serial number of the measure and a  
4 summary of the measure, not to exceed seventy-five words, to follow the  
5 statement. The statement may be distinct from the legislative title of  
6 the measure, and shall give a true and impartial statement of the  
7 purpose of the measure. Neither the statement nor the summary may  
8 intentionally be an argument, nor likely to create prejudice, either  
9 for or against the measure. Except as provided for in section 7 of  
10 this act, such a concise statement shall constitute the ballot title.  
11 The ballot title or, for a referendum on a state enactment, the concise  
12 statement formulated by the attorney general shall be the ballot title  
13 of or concise statement describing the measure unless changed on  
14 appeal. When practicable, the question posed by the ballot title shall  
15 be written in such a way that an affirmative answer to such question  
16 and an affirmative vote on the measure would result in a change in then  
17 current law, and a negative answer to the question and a negative vote  
18 on the measure would result in no change to then current law.

19 **Sec. 10.** RCW 29.79.110 and 1982 c 116 s 11 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 Petitions ordering that acts or parts of acts passed by the  
22 legislature be referred to the people at the next ensuing general  
23 election, or special election ordered by the legislature, shall be  
24 substantially in the following form:

25 **WARNING**

26 Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her  
27 true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this  
28 petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false  
29 statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or  
30 both.

31 **PETITION FOR REFERENDUM**

32 To the Honorable ....., Secretary of State of the State of  
33 Washington:

1       We, the undersigned citizens and legal voters of the State of  
2 Washington, respectfully order and direct that Referendum Measure No.  
3 ....., (~~entitled (here insert the established ballot title of the~~  
4 ~~measure) being~~) filed to revoke a (or part or parts of a) bill that  
5 (concise statement required by section 7 of this act) and that was  
6 passed by the ..... legislature of the State of Washington at the  
7 last regular (special) session of said legislature, shall be referred  
8 to the people of the state for their approval or rejection at the  
9 regular (special) election to be held on the ..... day of November,  
10 19..; and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally  
11 signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the State of Washington, in  
12 the city (or town) and county written after my name, my residence  
13 address is correctly stated, and I have knowingly signed this petition  
14 only once.  
15 .....