
SENATE BILL 6022

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen and Winsley

Read first time 01/10/94. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 AN ACT Relating to publication of ordinances of counties, cities,
2 and towns; amending RCW 35.22.288, 35.23.310, 35.24.220, 35.27.300,
3 35.30.018, 35A.12.160, and 65.16.160; and adding a new section to
4 chapter 35.21 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35.22.288 and 1988 c 168 s 1 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 Promptly after adoption, the text or title of each ordinance ((
9 ~~a summary of the content of each ordinance~~)) shall be published at
10 least once in the official newspaper of the city. ((~~For purposes of~~
11 ~~this section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly~~
12 ~~describes the main points of the ordinance. When the city publishes a~~
13 ~~summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text~~
14 ~~of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.~~)) When the city publishes
15 the title, the publication shall include:

- 16 (1) The name of the city;
17 (2) The formal identification or citation number of the ordinance;
18 (3) The full title of the ordinance; and

1 (4) A statement that the full text will be mailed upon request made
2 within ninety days after publication of the title.

3 An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the title's text
4 or (~~(a summary of)~~) the content of an ordinance shall not render the
5 ordinance invalid.

6 The full text of any ordinance, the title rather than the text of
7 which is published under this section, shall be mailed without charge
8 to any person who requests the text within ninety days after
9 publication of the title from the adopting city.

10 In addition to the requirement that a city publish the text or (~~(a~~
11 ~~summary of the content)~~) title of each adopted ordinance, every city
12 shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming
13 hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council
14 meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written
15 notification to the city's official newspaper, publication of a notice
16 in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas,
17 or such other processes as the city determines will satisfy the intent
18 of this requirement.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.23.310 and 1988 c 168 s 2 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 Promptly after adoption, the text or title of each ordinance (~~(or~~
22 ~~a summary of the content of each ordinance)~~) shall be published at
23 least once in the official newspaper of the city. (~~(For purposes of~~
24 ~~this section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly~~
25 ~~describes the main points of the ordinance. When the city publishes a~~
26 ~~summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text~~
27 ~~of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.)~~) When the city publishes
28 the title, the publication shall include:

29 (1) The name of the city;

30 (2) The formal identification or citation number of the ordinance;

31 (3) The full title of the ordinance; and

32 (4) A statement that the full text will be mailed upon request made
33 within ninety days after publication of the title.

34 An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the title's text
35 or (~~(a summary of)~~) the content of an ordinance shall not render the
36 ordinance invalid.

37 The full text of any ordinance, the title rather than the text of
38 which is published under this section, shall be mailed without charge

1 to any person who requests the text within ninety days after
2 publication of the title from the adopting city.

3 In addition to the requirement that a city publish the text or ((a
4 ~~summary of the content~~)) title of each adopted ordinance, every city
5 shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming
6 hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council
7 meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written
8 notification to the city's official newspaper, publication of a notice
9 in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas,
10 or such other processes as the city determines will satisfy the intent
11 of this requirement.

12 A certified copy of any ordinance certified to by the clerk, or a
13 printed copy of any ordinance or compilation printed by authority of
14 the city council and attested by the clerk shall be competent evidence
15 in any court.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35.24.220 and 1988 c 168 s 4 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 Promptly after adoption, the text or title of each ordinance ((or
19 ~~a summary of the content of each ordinance~~)) shall be published at
20 least once in the city's official newspaper. ((~~For purposes of this~~
21 ~~section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly~~
22 ~~describes the main points of the ordinance. When the city publishes a~~
23 ~~summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text~~
24 ~~of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.~~)) When the city publishes
25 the title, the publication shall include:

- 26 (1) The name of the city;
27 (2) The formal identification or citation number of the ordinance;
28 (3) The full title of the ordinance; and
29 (4) A statement that the full text will be mailed upon request made
30 within ninety days after publication of the title.

31 An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the title's text
32 or ((~~a summary of~~)) the content of an ordinance shall not render the
33 ordinance invalid.

34 The full text of any ordinance, the title rather than the text of
35 which is published under this section, shall be mailed without charge
36 to any person who requests the text within ninety days after
37 publication of the title from the adopting city.

1 In addition to the requirement that a city publish the text or ((a
2 ~~summary of the content~~)) title of each adopted ordinance, every city
3 shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming
4 hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council
5 meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written
6 notification to the city's official newspaper, publication of a notice
7 in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas,
8 or such other processes as the city determines will satisfy the intent
9 of this requirement.

10 **Sec. 4.** RCW 35.27.300 and 1988 c 168 s 5 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 Promptly after adoption, the text or title of each ordinance ((or
13 ~~a summary of the content of each ordinance~~)) shall be published at
14 least once in the official newspaper of the town. ((~~For purposes of~~
15 ~~this section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly~~
16 ~~describes the main points of the ordinance. When the town publishes a~~
17 ~~summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text~~
18 ~~of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.~~)) When the town publishes
19 the title, the publication shall include:

- 20 (1) The name of the town;
21 (2) The formal identification or citation number of the ordinance;
22 (3) The full title of the ordinance; and
23 (4) A statement that the full text will be mailed upon request made
24 within ninety days after publication of the title.

25 An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the title's text
26 or ((~~a summary of~~)) the content of an ordinance shall not render the
27 ordinance invalid.

28 The full text of any ordinance, the title rather than the text of
29 which is published under this section, shall be mailed without charge
30 to any person who requests the text within ninety days after
31 publication of the title from the adopting town.

32 In addition to the requirement that a town publish the text or ((a
33 ~~summary of the content~~)) title of each adopted ordinance, every town
34 shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming
35 hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council
36 meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written
37 notification to the town's official newspaper, publication of a notice
38 in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas,

1 or such other processes as the town determines will satisfy the intent
2 of this requirement.

3 **Sec. 5.** RCW 35.30.018 and 1988 c 168 s 6 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Promptly after adoption, the text or title of each ordinance ((~~or~~
6 ~~a summary of the content of each ordinance~~)) shall be published at
7 least once in the official newspaper of the city. ((~~For purposes of~~
8 ~~this section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly~~
9 ~~describes the main points of the ordinance. When the city publishes a~~
10 ~~summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text~~
11 ~~of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.~~)) When the city publishes
12 the title, the publication shall include:

- 13 (1) The name of the city;
14 (2) The formal identification or citation number of the ordinance;
15 (3) The full title of the ordinance; and
16 (4) A statement that the full text will be mailed upon request made
17 within ninety days after publication of the title.

18 An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the title's text
19 or ((~~a summary of~~)) the content of an ordinance shall not render the
20 ordinance invalid.

21 The full text of any ordinance, the title rather than the text of
22 which is published under this section, shall be mailed without charge
23 to any person who requests the text within ninety days after
24 publication of the title from the adopting city.

25 In addition to the requirement that a city publish the text or ((~~a~~
26 ~~summary of the content~~)) title of each adopted ordinance, every city
27 shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming
28 hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council
29 meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written
30 notification to the city's official newspaper, publication of a notice
31 in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas,
32 or such other processes as the city determines will satisfy the intent
33 of this requirement.

34 **Sec. 6.** RCW 35A.12.160 and 1988 c 168 s 7 are each amended to read
35 as follows:

36 Promptly after adoption, the text or title of each ordinance ((~~or~~
37 ~~a summary of the content of each ordinance~~)) shall be published at

1 least once in the city's official newspaper. (~~For purposes of this~~
2 ~~section, a summary shall mean a brief description which succinctly~~
3 ~~describes the main points of the ordinance. When the city publishes a~~
4 ~~summary, the publication shall include a statement that the full text~~
5 ~~of the ordinance will be mailed upon request.)) When the city publishes
6 the title, the publication shall include:~~

7 (1) The name of the city;

8 (2) The formal identification or citation number of the ordinance;

9 (3) The full title of the ordinance; and

10 (4) A statement that the full text will be mailed upon request made
11 within ninety days after publication of the title.

12 An inadvertent mistake or omission in publishing the title's text
13 or (~~a summary of~~) the content of an ordinance shall not render the
14 ordinance invalid.

15 The full text of any ordinance, the title rather than the text of
16 which is published under this section, shall be mailed without charge
17 to any person who requests the text within ninety days after
18 publication of the title from the adopting city.

19 In addition to the requirement that a city publish the text or (~~a~~
20 ~~summary of the content~~) title of each adopted ordinance, every city
21 shall establish a procedure for notifying the public of upcoming
22 hearings and the preliminary agenda for the forthcoming council
23 meeting. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to, written
24 notification to the city's official newspaper, publication of a notice
25 in the official newspaper, posting of upcoming council meeting agendas,
26 or such other processes as the city determines will satisfy the intent
27 of this requirement.

28 **Sec. 7.** RCW 65.16.160 and 1977 c 34 s 4 are each amended to read
29 as follows:

30 (1) Whenever any county, city, or town is required by law to
31 publish legal notices containing the full text of any proposed or
32 adopted ordinance in a newspaper, the county, city, or town may publish
33 (~~a summary~~) the title of the ordinance (~~which summary shall be~~
34 ~~approved by the governing body and~~), which shall include:

35 (a) The name of the county, city, or town;

36 (b) The formal identification or citation number of the ordinance;

37 (c) (~~A descriptive~~) The full title of the ordinance; and

38 (d) (~~A section-by-section summary;~~

1 ~~(e) Any other information which the county, city, or town finds is~~
2 ~~necessary to provide a complete summary; and~~

3 ~~(f)) A statement that the full text will be mailed upon request~~
4 ~~made within ninety days after publication of the title.~~

5 ~~(2) ((Subsection (1) of this section notwithstanding, whenever any~~
6 ~~publication is made under this section and the proposed or adopted~~
7 ~~ordinance contains provisions regarding taxation or penalties or~~
8 ~~contains legal descriptions of real property, then the sections~~
9 ~~containing this matter shall be published in full and shall not be~~
10 ~~summarized. When a legal description of real property is involved, the~~
11 ~~notice shall also include the street address or addresses of the~~
12 ~~property described, if any. In the case of descriptions covering more~~
13 ~~than one street address, the street addresses of the four corners of~~
14 ~~the area described shall meet this requirement.~~

15 ~~(3)) The full text of any ordinance ((which is summarized by~~
16 ~~publication)), the title rather than the full text of which is~~
17 ~~published under this section, shall be mailed without charge to any~~
18 ~~person who requests the text within ninety days after publication of~~
19 ~~the title from the adopting county, city, or town.~~

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. A new section is added to chapter 35.21 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) It is the purpose of this section to provide a means whereby
23 all cities and towns may obtain, through a single source, information
24 regarding ordinances adopted by other cities and towns that may be of
25 assistance to them in enacting appropriate local legislation.

26 (2) For the purposes of this section, (a) "clerk" means the city or
27 town clerk or other person who is lawfully designated to perform the
28 recordkeeping function of that office, and (b) "municipal research
29 council" means the municipal research council created by chapter 43.110
30 RCW.

31 (3) The clerk of every city and town is directed to provide to the
32 municipal research council or its designee, promptly after adoption and
33 publication of the text or title, a copy of the full text of each of
34 its regulatory ordinances and such other ordinances or kinds of
35 ordinances as may be described in a list or lists promulgated by the
36 municipal research council or its designee from time to time, and may
37 provide such copies without charge. The municipal research council may
38 provide that information to the entity with which it contracts for the

1 provision of municipal research and services, in order to provide a
2 pool of information for all cities and towns in the state of
3 Washington.

4 (4) This section is intended to be directory and not mandatory.

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