
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1027

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Schoesler, Chandler, Sheahan, Sterk, McMorris, Honeyford, Dyer, Mielke and D. Schmidt

Read first time 01/13/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to restrictions on mailings and public service
2 broadcasts by state officials; and adding a new section to chapter
3 42.17 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Except as provided in this section, during the twelve-month
8 period beginning on December 1st of the year before a general election
9 for a state official's election to office and continuing through
10 November 30th, a state official other than a legislator may not mail to
11 a constituent at public expense a letter, newsletter, brochure, or
12 other piece of literature, and may not make public service broadcasts
13 at public expense. This section does not apply to legislators, who are
14 subject to the restrictions under RCW 42.17.132.

15 (2) The restriction on mailings under subsection (1) of this
16 section does not apply to the following:

17 (a) Brochures or other pieces of literature mailed as part of the
18 regular duties of the state office that only refer to the office and do
19 not include the name of the state official, except that the name of the

1 secretary of state may occur in the state voters' pamphlet if he or she
2 is a candidate for office in the same manner as the name of any other
3 candidate;

4 (b) Individual letters or other individual pieces of correspondence
5 mailed as official communications by the state official, or the office
6 of the state official, directly related to matters within the purview
7 of the official duties of the office;

8 (c) One mailing of an identical newsletter to constituents that may
9 include the name of the state official no later than thirty days after
10 the start of a regular legislative session and one mailing of an
11 identical newsletter to constituents that may include the name of the
12 state official no later than sixty days after the end of a regular
13 legislative session;

14 (d) An individual letter to an individual constituent who (i) has
15 contacted the state official regarding the subject matter of the letter
16 during the official's current term of office; or (ii) holds a
17 governmental office with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the
18 letter.

19 (3) The restriction on public service broadcasts under subsection
20 (1) of this section does not apply to public service broadcasts that
21 are part of the regular duties of the state office that only mention or
22 visually display the state office and do not mention or visually
23 display the name of the state official in the broadcast.

24 (4) A violation of this section constitutes use of the facilities
25 of a public office for the purpose of assisting a campaign under RCW
26 42.52.180.

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