
SENATE BILL 6864

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 1st Special Session

By Senators McCaslin, Patterson, Horn, Haugen, Gardner, Heavey, Morton, Fraser, Johnson, Honeyford, B. Sheldon, Rossi, Snyder, Deccio, Zarelli, Hale, West, Stevens and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 03/17/2000. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to mailings by legislators; and amending RCW
2 42.52.185.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 42.52.185 and 1997 c 320 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) During the twelve-month period beginning on December 1st of the
7 year before a general election for a state legislator's election to
8 office and continuing through November 30th immediately after the
9 general election, the legislator may not mail, either by regular mail
10 or electronic mail, to a constituent at public expense a letter,
11 newsletter, brochure, or other piece of literature, except as follows:

12 (a) The legislator may mail two mailings of newsletters to
13 constituents. All newsletters within each mailing of newsletters must
14 be identical as to their content but not as to the constituent name or
15 address. One such mailing may be mailed no later than thirty days
16 after the start of a regular legislative session, except that a
17 legislator appointed during a regular legislative session to fill a
18 vacant seat may have up to thirty days from the date of appointment to

1 send out the first mailing. The other mailing may be mailed no later
2 than sixty days after the end of a regular legislative session.

3 (b) The legislator may mail an individual letter to (i) an
4 individual constituent who has contacted the legislator regarding the
5 subject matter of the letter during the legislator's current term of
6 office; (ii) an individual constituent who holds a governmental office
7 with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the letter; or (iii) an
8 individual constituent who has received an award or honor or
9 accomplished something of ((extraordinary)) uncommon distinction ((of
10 a type that is sufficiently infrequent to be noteworthy to a reasonable
11 person)), including, but not limited to: (A) ((An international or
12 national award such as the Nobel prize or the Pulitzer prize))
13 Scholastic or athletic achievement by a student; (B) ((a state award
14 such as Washington scholar)) public service to the state or the
15 person's community; (C) an Eagle Scout award; and (D) ((a Medal of
16 Honor)) significant personal or professional milestones.

17 (2) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, "legislator"
18 means a legislator who is a "candidate," as defined by RCW 42.17.020,
19 for any public office.

20 (3) A violation of this section constitutes use of the facilities
21 of a public office for the purpose of assisting a campaign under RCW
22 42.52.180.

23 (4) The house of representatives and senate shall specifically
24 limit expenditures per member for the total cost of mailings. Those
25 costs include, but are not limited to, production costs, printing
26 costs, and postage costs. The limits imposed under this subsection
27 apply only to the total expenditures on mailings per member and not to
28 any categorical cost within the total.

29 (5) For purposes of this section, persons residing outside the
30 legislative district represented by the legislator are not considered
31 to be constituents, but students, military personnel, or others
32 temporarily employed outside of the district who normally reside in the
33 district are considered to be constituents.

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