

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1673**

Chapter 304, Laws of 1999

56th Legislature  
1999 Regular Session

POLITICAL ADVERTISING--FALSE STATEMENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/25/99

Passed by the House April 23, 1999  
Yeas 96 Nays 0

CLYDE BALLARD  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

FRANK CHOPP  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 21, 1999  
Yeas 41 Nays 3

BRAD OWEN  
**President of the Senate**

Approved May 13, 1999

GARY LOCKE  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

We, Dean R. Foster and Timothy A. Martin, Co-Chief Clerks of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1673** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

DEAN R. FOSTER  
**Chief Clerk**

TIMOTHY A. MARTIN  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 13, 1999 - 3:54 p.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1673**

---

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 1999 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      1999 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Lambert, O'Brien, Thomas and Sullivan)

Read first time 03/02/1999.

1            AN ACT Relating to false political advertising; amending RCW  
2 42.17.530; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) The Washington supreme court in a case  
5 involving a ballot measure, *State v. 119 Vote No! Committee*, 135 Wn.2d  
6 618 (1998), found the statute that prohibits persons from sponsoring,  
7 with actual malice, political advertising containing false statements  
8 of material fact to be invalid under the First Amendment to the United  
9 States Constitution.

10            (2) The legislature finds that a review of the opinions indicates  
11 that a majority of the supreme court may find valid a statute that  
12 limited such a prohibition on sponsoring with actual malice false  
13 statements of material fact in a political campaign to statements about  
14 a candidate in an election for public office.

15            (3) It is the intent of the legislature to amend the current law to  
16 provide protection for candidates for public office against false  
17 statements of material fact sponsored with actual malice.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17.530 and 1988 c 199 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) It is a violation of this chapter for a person to sponsor with  
4 actual malice:

5       (a) Political advertising that contains a false statement of  
6 material fact about a candidate for public office. However, this  
7 subsection (1)(a) does not apply to statements made by a candidate or  
8 the candidate's agent about the candidate himself or herself;"

9       (b) Political advertising that falsely represents that a candidate  
10 is the incumbent for the office sought when in fact the candidate is  
11 not the incumbent;

12       (c) Political advertising that makes either directly or indirectly,  
13 a false claim stating or implying the support or endorsement of any  
14 person or organization when in fact the candidate does not have such  
15 support or endorsement.

16       (2) Any violation of this section shall be proven by clear and  
17 convincing evidence.

Passed the House April 23, 1999.

Passed the Senate April 21, 1999.

Approved by the Governor May 13, 1999.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 13, 1999.