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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1157**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Hunt, Armstrong, Shabro, McDermott, Tom, Haigh, Clements, Cairnes, Simpson, Kenney, Schual-Berke and Upthegrove; by request of Secretary of State)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/03.

1       AN ACT Relating to actions on the validity of ballot measures; and  
2 adding a new section to chapter 4.24 RCW.

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

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6       (1) No action may lie in a court of this state seeking a ruling as  
7 to the validity of an initiative to the people, initiative to the  
8 legislature, referendum bill, referendum measure, constitutional  
9 amendment, city measure, county measure, charter amendment, county  
10 initiative, or city initiative before the certification of the election  
11 at which the voters enact, reject, or approve the measure, except as  
12 provided in this section.

13       (2) An action will lie in a court of competent jurisdiction seeking  
14 review of a proposed measure described in subsection (1) of this  
15 section to determine whether it is beyond the scope of the initiative  
16 or referendum power or otherwise beyond the scope of authority for  
17 placing a measure of that kind onto the ballot, except that a court may  
18 decline to hear such an action before the certification of the election  
19 based upon sound prudential concerns.

1           (3) To provide for the orderly conduct of elections, no such action  
2 brought under this section may be commenced during a period that begins  
3 at the close of business of the fifth business day after the deadline  
4 for the filing of signature petitions and ends when the election  
5 results are certified under RCW 29.62.130. This period is known as the  
6 "election period," during which such complaints may not be filed.  
7 Nothing contained in this section diminishes or enlarges the  
8 jurisdiction of any court of record having jurisdiction over the  
9 language or content contained in the ballot measure.

10           (4) Nothing in this section limits the jurisdiction of a court to  
11 resolve an error in election procedure that could only be corrected  
12 before the election. This section does not apply to an appeal of the  
13 language or content of a ballot title, summary, or explanatory  
14 statement as otherwise provided by law, nor to the procedure to appeal  
15 the secretary of state's decision to reject a petition under RCW  
16 29.79.160 and 29.79.170, nor to the appeal process contained in RCW  
17 29.79.210.

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