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SENATE BILL 5830

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin, Winsley, Reardon, Keiser, Thibaudeau, Regala, Fairley, Prentice, Jacobsen, Kastama and Schmidt

Read first time 02/14/2003. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessment of the constitutionality of  
2 initiatives; amending RCW 29.81.250; and adding a new section to  
3 chapter 29.79 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 29.79 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 Each initiative measure to be submitted to the people that is  
8 certified to the ballot must be reviewed by the state supreme court for  
9 the purpose of assessing the constitutionality of the measure. The  
10 court shall issue a summary statement, not to exceed one hundred words,  
11 of its assessment. This statement may not be considered to be in  
12 support of or in opposition to the measure.

13 The assessment of constitutionality must be available online from  
14 the supreme court's web site and included in the state voters'  
15 pamphlet.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.81.250 and 2002 c 139 s 2 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of the

1 voters' pamphlet. The secretary of state shall print the pamphlet in  
2 clear, readable type on a size, quality, and weight of paper that in  
3 the judgment of the secretary of state best serves the voters. The  
4 pamphlet must contain a table of contents. Federal and state offices  
5 must appear in the pamphlet in the same sequence as they appear on the  
6 ballot. Measures and arguments must be printed in the order specified  
7 by RCW 29.79.300.

8 The voters' pamphlet must provide the following information for  
9 each statewide issue on the ballot:

10 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation  
11 or number;

12 (2) The official ballot title of the measure;

13 (3) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the law  
14 as it presently exists;

15 (4) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the  
16 effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;

17 (5) The fiscal impact statement prepared under RCW 29.79.075;

18 (6) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure in  
19 the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has been passed  
20 by the legislature;

21 (7) For each initiative measure to be submitted to the people, the  
22 assessment of constitutionality prepared under section 1 of this act;

23 (8) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the measure  
24 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;

25 ~~((+8))~~ (9) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the  
26 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing  
27 argument;

28 ~~((+9))~~ (10) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed  
29 by the names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be  
30 followed by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain  
31 information on the ballot measure;

32 ~~((+10))~~ (11) The full text of each measure.

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