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HOUSE BILL 1755

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Green, Shabro, Hunt, McDermott, Haigh, Moeller, Simpson, Schual-Berke and Linville; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 02/03/2005. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to voters' pamphlets; and amending RCW 29A.32.010  
2 and 29A.32.060.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.32.010 and 2003 c 111 s 801 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 The secretary of state shall, whenever at least one statewide  
7 measure or office is scheduled to appear on the primary or general  
8 election ballot, print and distribute a voters' pamphlet.

9 The secretary of state shall distribute the voters' pamphlet to  
10 each household in the state, to public libraries, and to any other  
11 locations he or she deems appropriate. The secretary of state shall  
12 also produce taped or Braille transcripts of the voters' pamphlet,  
13 publicize their availability, and mail without charge a copy to any  
14 person who requests one.

15 The secretary of state may make the material required to be  
16 distributed by this chapter available to the public in electronic form.  
17 The secretary of state may provide the material in electronic form to  
18 computer bulletin boards, print and broadcast news media, community

1 computer networks, and similar services at the cost of reproduction or  
2 transmission of the data.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.060 and 2003 c 111 s 806 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 Committees shall write and submit arguments advocating the approval  
6 or rejection of each statewide ballot issue and rebuttals of those  
7 arguments. The secretary of state, the presiding officer of the  
8 senate, and the presiding officer of the house of representatives shall  
9 appoint ~~((the))~~ at least one but not more than two initial ~~((two))~~  
10 members of each committee. In making these committee appointments the  
11 secretary of state and presiding officers of the senate and house of  
12 representatives shall consider legislators, sponsors of initiatives and  
13 referendums, and other interested groups known to advocate or oppose  
14 the ballot measure.

15 The initial ~~((two))~~ member or members may select ~~((up to four))~~  
16 additional members, and the committee shall elect a chairperson. A  
17 committee may have up to six members. The remaining committee member  
18 or members may fill vacancies through appointment.

19 After the committee submits its initial argument statements to the  
20 secretary of state, the secretary of state shall transmit the  
21 statements to the opposite committee. The opposite committee may then  
22 prepare rebuttal arguments. Rebuttals may not interject new points.

23 The voters' pamphlet may contain only argument statements prepared  
24 according to this section. Arguments may contain graphs and charts  
25 supported by factual statistical data and pictures or other  
26 illustrations. Cartoons or caricatures are not permitted.

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