
HOUSE BILL 2978

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Hasegawa, Chase and Santos

Read first time 01/17/2006. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to requirements for fiscal impact statements
2 prepared for the voters' pamphlet; and amending RCW 29A.32.070 and
3 29A.72.025.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.32.070 and 2003 c 111 s 807 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of the
8 voters' pamphlet. The secretary of state shall print the pamphlet in
9 clear, readable type on a size, quality, and weight of paper that in
10 the judgment of the secretary of state best serves the voters. The
11 pamphlet must contain a table of contents. Federal and state offices
12 must appear in the pamphlet in the same sequence as they appear on the
13 ballot. Measures and arguments must be printed in the order specified
14 by RCW 29A.72.290.

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

17 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation
18 or number;

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

- 1 (3) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the law
2 as it presently exists;
- 3 (4) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the
4 effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;
- 5 (5) The fiscal impact statement prepared under RCW (~~29.79.075~~)
6 29A.72.025;
- 7 (6) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure in
8 the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has been passed
9 by the legislature;
- 10 (7) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the measure
11 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;
- 12 (8) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the measure
13 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;
- 14 (9) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed by the
15 names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be followed
16 by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain information on
17 the ballot measure;
- 18 (10) The full text of each measure.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.72.025 and 2004 c 266 s 4 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 (1) The office of financial management, in consultation with the
22 secretary of state, the attorney general, and any other appropriate
23 state or local agency, shall prepare a fiscal impact statement for each
24 of the following state ballot measures: (~~(1)~~) (a) An initiative to
25 the people that is certified to the ballot; (~~(2)~~) (b) an initiative
26 to the legislature that will appear on the ballot; (~~(3)~~) (c) an
27 alternative measure appearing on the ballot that the legislature
28 proposes to an initiative to the legislature; (~~(4)~~) (d) a referendum
29 bill referred to voters by the legislature; and (~~(5)~~) (e) a
30 referendum measure appearing on the ballot. Fiscal impact statements
31 must be written in clear and concise language and avoid legal and
32 technical terms when possible, and may include easily understood
33 graphics.

34 (2) A fiscal impact statement must describe any projected increase
35 or decrease in revenues, costs, expenditures, or indebtedness that the
36 state or local governments will experience if the ballot measure were
37 approved by state voters. Where appropriate, a fiscal impact statement

1 may include both estimated dollar amounts and a description placing the
2 estimated dollar amounts into context. A fiscal impact statement must
3 include: (a) The current percentage amount of revenue from retail
4 sales tax, business and occupation tax, property tax, real estate
5 excise tax, public utility tax, and any other taxes in which two
6 percent or more revenue is received by the state; (b) the current
7 percentage of distribution of spending from the state general fund; and
8 (c) the percent of income paid in all Washington state and local taxes
9 broken down by household income as follows:

10 (i) Below seventeen thousand dollars;

11 (ii) Between seventeen thousand dollars and thirty-one thousand
12 dollars;

13 (iii) Between thirty-one thousand dollars and forty-eight thousand
14 dollars;

15 (iv) Between forty-eight thousand dollars and seventy-five thousand
16 dollars;

17 (v) Between seventy-five thousand dollars and one hundred forty-
18 three thousand dollars;

19 (vi) Between one hundred forty-three thousand dollars and nine
20 hundred twenty-two thousand dollars; and

21 (vii) Over nine hundred twenty-two thousand dollars.

22 (3) A fiscal impact statement must include both a summary of not to
23 exceed one hundred words and a more detailed statement that includes
24 the assumptions that were made to develop the fiscal impacts.

25 (4) Fiscal impact statements must be available online from the
26 secretary of state's web site and included in the state voters'
27 pamphlet.

--- END ---