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HOUSE BILL 2418

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

**By** Representatives Carlyle, Anderson, Hunt, Hurst, White, Pedersen, Upthegrove, McCoy, Jacks, Dickerson, Hudgins, Moeller, Hasegawa, Kagi, Sells, Nelson, Chase, Appleton, Conway, Kenney, Morris, Darneille, and Santos

Prefiled 12/07/09. Read first time 01/11/10. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to signature petitions; and amending RCW 29A.72.230  
2 and 29A.72.140.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.72.230 and 2003 c 111 s 1823 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Upon the filing of an initiative or referendum petition, the  
7 secretary of state shall proceed to verify and canvass the names of the  
8 legal voters on the petition. The verification and canvass of  
9 signatures on the petition may be observed by persons representing the  
10 advocates and opponents of the proposed measure so long as they make no  
11 record of the names, addresses, or other information on the petitions  
12 or related records during the verification process except upon the  
13 order of the superior court of Thurston county. The secretary of state  
14 may limit the number of observers to not less than two on each side, if  
15 in his or her opinion, a greater number would cause undue delay or  
16 disruption of the verification process. Any such limitation shall  
17 apply equally to both sides. The secretary of state may use any  
18 statistical sampling techniques for this verification and canvass which  
19 have been adopted by rule as provided by chapter 34.05 RCW. No

1 petition will be rejected on the basis of any statistical method  
2 employed, and no petition will be accepted on the basis of any  
3 statistical method employed if such method indicates that the petition  
4 contains fewer than the requisite number of signatures of legal voters.  
5 If the secretary of state finds the same name signed to more than one  
6 petition, he or she shall reject all but the first such valid  
7 signature. For an initiative to the legislature, the secretary of  
8 state shall transmit a certified copy of the proposed measure to the  
9 legislature at the opening of its session and, as soon as the  
10 signatures on the petition have been verified and canvassed, the  
11 secretary of state shall send to the legislature a certificate of the  
12 facts relating to the filing, verification, and canvass of the  
13 petition.

14 Once the verification and canvass of signatures is complete, the  
15 names and addresses of persons who signed the petition are public  
16 records under chapter 42.56 RCW and may be made available for public  
17 inspection and copying.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.72.140 and 2003 c 111 s 1815 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The word "warning" and the following warning statement  
21 regarding signing petitions must appear on petitions as prescribed by  
22 this title and must be printed on each petition sheet such that they  
23 occupy not less than four square inches of the front of the petition  
24 sheet.

25 WARNING

26 Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her  
27 true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this  
28 petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false  
29 statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or  
30 both.

31 (2) The following statement must appear on petitions as prescribed  
32 by this title and must be printed on each petition sheet.

33 Signature petitions are public documents. By signing this  
34 document, your name, address, and signature may be released as part of  
35 a public records request.

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