
SENATE BILL 5715

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Fain, Pedersen, Braun, and Angel

Read first time 01/29/15. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to including the contents of fiscal impact
2 statements in the ballot title for certain initiative measures; and
3 amending RCW 29A.72.050 and 29A.72.060.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.72.050 and 2003 c 111 s 1806 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The ballot title for an initiative to the people, an
8 initiative to the legislature, a referendum bill, or a referendum
9 measure consists of: (a) A statement of the subject of the measure;
10 (b) a concise description of the measure; and (c) a question in the
11 form prescribed in this section for the ballot measure in question.
12 The ballot title for an initiative to the people or an initiative to
13 the legislature for which the legislature has not proposed an
14 alternative may also consist of a short statement of the findings of
15 the fiscal impact statement prepared under RCW 29A.72.025 if
16 necessary under subsection (2)(b) of this section. The statement of
17 the subject of a measure must be sufficiently broad to reflect the
18 subject of the measure, sufficiently precise to give notice of the
19 measure's subject matter, and not exceed ten words. The concise
20 description must contain no more than thirty words, be a true and
21 impartial description of the measure's essential contents, clearly

1 identify the proposition to be voted on, and not, to the extent
2 reasonably possible, create prejudice either for or against the
3 measure.

4 (2)(a) For an initiative to the people, or for an initiative to
5 the legislature for which the legislature has not proposed an
6 alternative, the ballot title must be displayed on the ballot
7 substantially as follows:

8 "Initiative Measure No. . . . concerns (statement of
9 subject). This measure would (concise description). Should
10 this measure be enacted into law?

11 Yes

12 No

13 (b) For an initiative to the people, or for an initiative to the
14 legislature for which the legislature has not proposed an
15 alternative, in which the fiscal impact statement prepared pursuant
16 to RCW 29A.72.025 indicates that the initiative will result in an
17 estimated net biennial increase in state expenditures of twenty-five
18 million dollars or greater, or an estimated net biennial decrease in
19 state revenues of twenty-five million dollars or greater, the ballot
20 title must be displayed on the ballot substantially as follows:

21 "Initiative Measure No. . . . concerns (statement of
22 subject). This measure would (concise description). The state
23 budget office has determined that this proposal would have a
24 net impact of (amount) on the state general fund. This means
25 other state spending may need to be reduced or taxes
26 increased to implement the proposal. Should this measure be
27 enacted into law?

28 Yes

29 No

30 (3) For an initiative to the legislature for which the
31 legislature has proposed an alternative, the ballot title must be
32 displayed on the ballot substantially as follows:

33 "Initiative Measure Nos. . . . and . . .B concern (statement
34 of subject).

35 Initiative Measure No. . . . would (concise description).

1 As an alternative, the legislature has proposed Initiative
2 Measure No. . . .B, which would (concise description).

3 1. Should either of these measures be enacted into law?

4 Yes

5 No

6 2. Regardless of whether you voted yes or no above, if one of
7 these measures is enacted, which one should it be?

8 Measure No.

9 or

10 Measure No.

11 (4) For a referendum bill submitted to the people by the
12 legislature, the ballot issue must be displayed on the ballot
13 substantially as follows:

14 "The legislature has passed Bill No. . . . concerning
15 (statement of subject). This bill would (concise
16 description). Should this bill be:

17 Approved

18 Rejected

19 (5) For a referendum measure by state voters on a bill the
20 legislature has passed, the ballot issue must be displayed on the
21 ballot substantially as follows:

22 "The legislature passed Bill No. . . . concerning
23 (statement of subject) and voters have filed a sufficient
24 referendum petition on this bill. This bill would (concise
25 description). Should this bill be:

26 Approved

27 Rejected

28 (6) The legislature may specify the statement of subject or
29 concise description, or both, in a referendum bill that it refers to
30 the people. The legislature may specify the concise description for
31 an alternative it submits for an initiative to the legislature. If
32 the legislature fails to specify these matters, the attorney general
33 shall prepare the material that was not specified. The statement of

1 subject and concise description as so provided must be included as
2 part of the ballot title unless changed on appeal.

3 The attorney general shall specify the statement of subject and
4 concise description for an initiative to the people, an initiative to
5 the legislature, and a referendum measure. The statement of subject
6 and concise description as so provided must be included as part of
7 the ballot title unless changed on appeal.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.72.060 and 2003 c 111 s 1807 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 Within five days after the receipt of an initiative or referendum
11 the attorney general shall formulate the ballot title, or portion of
12 the ballot title that the legislature or the office of financial
13 management has not provided, required by RCW 29A.72.050 and a summary
14 of the measure, not to exceed seventy-five words, and transmit the
15 serial number for the measure, complete ballot title, and summary to
16 the secretary of state. Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays are
17 not counted in calculating the time limits in this section.

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