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**SENATE BILL 5977**

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**State of Washington                      53rd Legislature                      1993 Regular Session**

**By Senator Rinehart; by request of Office of Financial Management**

Read first time 04/08/93. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to the verification of initiative and referendum  
2 petitions; amending RCW 29.79.200; providing an effective date; and  
3 declaring an emergency.

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

5            **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.79.200 and 1982 c 116 s 15 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

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

1 have been adopted by rule as provided by chapter 34.05 RCW. No  
2 petition will be rejected on the basis of any statistical method  
3 employed, and no petition will be accepted on the basis of any  
4 statistical method employed if such method indicates that the petition  
5 contains (~~less than one hundred ten percent of~~) fewer than the  
6 requisite number of signatures of legal voters. If the secretary of  
7 state finds the same name signed to more than one petition, he or she  
8 shall reject all but the first such valid signature. For an initiative  
9 to the legislature, the secretary of state shall transmit a certified  
10 copy of the proposed measure to the legislature at the opening of its  
11 session and, as soon as the signatures on the petition have been  
12 verified and canvassed, the secretary of state shall send to the  
13 legislature a certificate of the facts relating to the filing,  
14 verification, and canvass of the petition.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
17 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
18 effect July 1, 1993.

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