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SENATE BILL 6417

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senator Nelson

Read first time 01/23/12. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to activities prohibited at a voting center or  
2 ballot drop location; amending RCW 29A.84.510; and prescribing  
3 penalties.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.84.510 and 2011 c 10 s 69 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) During the voting period that begins eighteen days before and  
8 ends the day of a special election, general election, or primary, no  
9 person may(~~(7)~~):

- 10 (a) Within fifty feet of a voting center or ballot drop location:  
11 ~~((a))~~ (i) Suggest or persuade or attempt to suggest or persuade  
12 any voter to vote for or against any candidate or ballot measure;  
13 ~~((b))~~ (ii) Circulate cards or handbills of any kind;  
14 ~~((c))~~ (iii) Solicit signatures to any kind of petition; or  
15 ~~((d))~~ (iv) Engage in any practice which interferes with the  
16 freedom of voters to exercise their franchise or disrupts the  
17 administration of the voting center(~~(7)~~) or ballot drop location; or  
18 ~~((2) No person may)~~ (b) Obstruct the doors or entries to a

1 building in which a voting center or ballot drop location is located or  
2 prevent free access to and from any voting center or ballot drop  
3 location.

4 (2) Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or municipal law enforcement  
5 officer shall prevent such ~~((obstruction))~~ prohibited activity, and may  
6 arrest any person ~~((creating))~~ engaging in such ~~((obstruction))~~  
7 prohibited activity.

8 (3) Any violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor,  
9 punishable to the same extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable  
10 under RCW 9A.20.021, and the person convicted may be ordered to pay the  
11 costs of prosecution.

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