
HOUSE BILL 1027

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Schoesler, Chandler, Sheahan, Sterk, McMorris, Honeyford, Dyer, Mielke and D. Schmidt

Read first time 01/13/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to restrictions on mailings and public service
2 broadcasts by state officials; and adding a new section to chapter
3 42.17 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) Except as provided in this section, during the twelve-month
8 period before the last day for certification of the election results
9 for a state official's election to office, other than a legislator, the
10 state official may not mail to a constituent at public expense a
11 letter, newsletter, brochure, or other piece of literature, and may not
12 make public service broadcasts at public expense. This section does
13 not apply to legislators, who are subject to the restrictions under RCW
14 42.17.132.

15 (2) The restriction on mailings under subsection (1) of this
16 section does not apply to the following:

17 (a) Brochures or other pieces of literature mailed as part of the
18 regular duties of the state office that only refer to the office and do
19 not include the name of the state official;

1 (b) One mailing of an identical newsletter to constituents that may
2 include the name of the state official no later than thirty days after
3 the start of a regular legislative session and one mailing of an
4 identical newsletter to constituents that may include the name of the
5 state official no later than sixty days after the end of a regular
6 legislative session;

7 (c) An individual letter to an individual constituent who (i) has
8 contacted the state official regarding the subject matter of the letter
9 during the official's current term of office; or (ii) holds a
10 governmental office with jurisdiction over the subject matter of the
11 letter.

12 (3) The restriction on public service broadcasts under subsection
13 (1) of this section does not apply to public service broadcasts that
14 are part of the regular duties of the state office that only mention or
15 visually display the state office and do not mention or visually
16 display the name of the state official in the broadcast.

17 (4) A violation of this section constitutes use of the facilities
18 of a public office for the purpose of assisting a campaign under RCW
19 42.52.180.

--- END ---