
HOUSE BILL 1282

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Ogden, Carlson, Constantine, O'Brien, Keiser, Dickerson, Wood, Tokuda, Scott, Blalock, Mason, Costa and Kenney

Read first time 01/21/97. Referred to Committee on Government Administration.

1 AN ACT Relating to petitions to be filed with government; amending
2 RCW 29.79.090, 29.79.100, 29.79.110, and 29.79.490; adding a new
3 section to chapter 42.17 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 29.81
4 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29.79.090 and 1982 c 116 s 9 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) Petitions for proposing measures for submission to the
9 legislature at its next regular session, shall be substantially in the
10 following form:

11 "WARNING

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

INITIATIVE PETITION FOR
SUBMISSION TO THE LEGISLATURE

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To the Honorable, Secretary of State of the State of Washington:

We, the undersigned citizens and legal voters of the State of Washington, respectfully direct that this petition and the proposed measure known as Initiative Measure No. . . . and entitled (here set forth the established ballot title of the measure), a full, true, and correct copy of which is printed on the reverse side of this petition, be transmitted to the legislature of the State of Washington at its next ensuing regular session, and we respectfully petition the legislature to enact said proposed measure into law; and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the State of Washington in the city (or town) and county written after my name, my residence address is correctly stated, and I have knowingly signed this petition only once.

Petitioner's	‡ Print name	‡ Residence address,	‡ City	‡
signature	‡ for positive	‡ street and number,	‡ or	‡ County
	‡ identification	‡ if any	‡ Town	‡
	‡	‡	‡	‡

(Here follow 20 numbered lines divided into columns as below.)

	‡	‡	‡	‡
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1	" " " " " " ‡	" " " " " " ‡	" " " " " " ‡	" " " " " " ‡
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etc. "				

(2) In addition, the following must be inserted and completed in at least twenty-point, bold-faced type at the top of each initiative petition where compensation, pay, or other consideration is provided to the person circulating, soliciting, or procuring signatures on that petition:

"SIGNATURE GATHERERS ARE BEING PAID BY(type or legibly print in ink the name of the group, organization, or

1 person paying for the signature gathering) TO CIRCULATE THIS
2 PETITION."

3 This statement does not have to appear on another petition for the same
4 initiative measure if compensation, pay, or other consideration is not
5 provided to the person circulating, soliciting, or procuring signatures
6 on that particular petition.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.79.100 and 1982 c 116 s 10 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) Petitions for proposing measures for submission to the people
10 for their approval or rejection at the next ensuing general election,
11 shall be substantially in the following form:

12 "WARNING

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

18 INITIATIVE PETITION FOR
19 SUBMISSION TO THE PEOPLE

20 To the Honorable, Secretary of State of the State of
21 Washington:

22 We, the undersigned citizens and legal voters of the State of
23 Washington, respectfully direct that the proposed measure known as
24 Initiative Measure No., entitled (here insert the established
25 ballot title of the measure), a full, true and correct copy of which is
26 printed on the reverse side of this petition, be submitted to the legal
27 voters of the State of Washington for their approval or rejection at
28 the general election to be held on the day of November,
29 19. . .; and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally
30 signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the State of Washington, in
31 the city (or town) and county written after my name, my residence
32 address is correctly stated, and I have knowingly signed this petition
33 only once.

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2	Petitioner's	‡ Print name	‡ Residence address,	‡ City	‡
3	signature	‡ for positive	‡ street and number,	‡ or	‡ County
4		‡ identification	‡ if any	‡ Town	‡
5		‡	‡	‡	‡

6 (Here follow 20 numbered lines divided into columns as below.)

8		‡	‡	‡	‡
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18		‡	‡	‡	‡
19	3	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡
20		‡	‡	‡	‡
21		etc."			

22 (2) In addition, the following must be inserted and completed in at
23 least twenty-point, bold-faced type at the top of each initiative
24 petition where compensation, pay, or other consideration is provided to
25 the person circulating, soliciting, or procuring signatures on that
26 petition:

27 "SIGNATURE GATHERERS ARE BEING PAID BY(type or
28 legibly print in ink the name of the group, organization, or
29 person paying for the signature gathering) TO CIRCULATE THIS
30 PETITION."

31 This statement does not have to appear on another petition for the same
32 initiative measure if compensation, pay, or other consideration is not
33 provided to the person circulating, soliciting, or procuring signatures
34 on that particular petition.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29.79.110 and 1993 c 256 s 10 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 (1) Petitions ordering that acts or parts of acts passed by the
38 legislature be referred to the people at the next ensuing general
39 election, or special election ordered by the legislature, shall be
40 substantially in the following form:

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

PETITION FOR REFERENDUM

To the Honorable, Secretary of State of the State of Washington:

We, the undersigned citizens and legal voters of the State of Washington, respectfully order and direct that Referendum Measure No., filed to revoke a (or part or parts of a) bill that (concise statement required by RCW 29.79.055) and that was passed by the legislature of the State of Washington at the last regular (special) session of said legislature, shall be referred to the people of the state for their approval or rejection at the regular (special) election to be held on the day of November, 19. . .; and each of us for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a legal voter of the State of Washington, in the city (or town) and county written after my name, my residence address is correctly stated, and I have knowingly signed this petition only once.

Petitioner's	‡ Print name	‡ Residence address,	‡ City	‡
signature	‡ for positive	‡ street and number,	‡ or	‡ County
	‡ identification	‡ if any	‡ Town	‡
	‡	‡	‡	‡

(Here follow 20 numbered lines divided into columns as below.)

	‡	‡	‡	‡
	‡	‡	‡	‡
	‡	‡	‡	‡
1	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡
33	‡	‡	‡	‡
34	‡	‡	‡	‡
2	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡
37	‡	‡	‡	‡
38	‡	‡	‡	‡
3	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡	" " " " " ‡
41	etc."			

1 (2) In addition, the following must be inserted and completed in at
2 least twenty-point, bold-faced type at the top of each referendum
3 petition where compensation, pay, or other consideration is provided to
4 the person circulating, soliciting, or procuring signatures on that
5 petition:

6 "SIGNATURE GATHERERS ARE BEING PAID BY(type or
7 legibly print in ink the name of the group, organization, or
8 person paying for the signature gathering) TO CIRCULATE THIS
9 PETITION."

10 This statement does not have to appear on another petition for the same
11 referendum measure if compensation, pay, or other consideration is not
12 provided to the person circulating, soliciting, or procuring signatures
13 on that particular petition.

14 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29.79.490 and 1993 c 256 s 4 are each amended to read
15 as follows:

16 Every person (~~shall be~~) is guilty of a gross misdemeanor who:

17 (1) For any consideration or gratuity or promise thereof, signs or
18 declines to sign any initiative or referendum petition; or

19 (2) Provides or receives consideration for soliciting or procuring
20 signatures on an initiative or referendum petition if any part of the
21 consideration is based upon the number of signatures solicited or
22 procured, or offers to provide or agrees to receive such consideration
23 any of which is based on the number of signatures solicited or
24 procured; or

25 (3) Gives or offers any consideration or gratuity to any person to
26 induce him or her to sign or not to sign or to vote for or against any
27 initiative or referendum measure; or

28 (4) Interferes with or attempts to interfere with the right of any
29 voter to sign or not to sign an initiative or referendum petition or
30 with the right to vote for or against an initiative or referendum
31 measure by threats, intimidation, or any other corrupt means or
32 practice; or

33 (5) Receives, handles, distributes, pays out, or gives away,
34 directly or indirectly, money or any other thing of value contributed
35 by or received from any person, firm, association, or corporation whose
36 residence or principal office is, or the majority of whose members or
37 stockholders have their residence outside, the state of Washington, for

1 any service rendered for the purpose of aiding in procuring signatures
2 upon any initiative or referendum petition or for the purpose of aiding
3 in the adoption or rejection of any initiative or referendum measure:
4 PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not apply to or prohibit any
5 activity which is properly reported in accordance with the applicable
6 provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW; or

7 (6) Circulates, solicits, or procures, or attempts to procure,
8 signatures upon an initiative or referendum petition that fails to meet
9 the requirements of RCW 29.79.080, 29.79.090, 29.79.100, or 29.79.110,
10 including, where applicable, the requirements that: (a) The statement
11 be included indicating that signature gatherers are being paid or
12 otherwise receiving consideration to gather signatures; and (b) the
13 name of the group, organization, or person paying for signature
14 gathering be inserted.

15 A gross misdemeanor under this section is punishable to the same
16 extent as a gross misdemeanor that is punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 42.17 RCW
18 to read as follows:

19 In addition to filing periodic reports with the commission that are
20 otherwise required under this chapter, a political committee that pays
21 or provides consideration, compensation, gratuities, rewards, or
22 anything of value to persons for circulating, soliciting, procuring, or
23 obtaining, or attempting to procure, signatures on a state initiative
24 or referendum petition also shall file reports required under RCW
25 42.17.080 on the twenty-first day and seventh day immediately before
26 the date the petitions must be filed and on the tenth day of the first
27 month after the petitions are filed.

28 The requirement under RCW 42.17.080 on keeping books of account
29 current and available for public inspection eight days before the
30 election associated with the political committee's efforts also applies
31 to the eight days immediately before the last date the petitions may be
32 filed for a political committee that pays or provides consideration,
33 compensation, gratuities, rewards, or anything of value to persons for
34 circulating, soliciting, procuring, or obtaining, or attempt to
35 procure, signatures on a state initiative or referendum petition.

36 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 29.81 RCW
37 to read as follows:

1 If consideration was provided for soliciting or procuring
2 signatures on a state measure, the voters' pamphlet must disclose the
3 percentage of signatures on the measure that were included on petitions
4 where compensation was paid to solicit any signatures. The statement
5 in the voters' pamphlet must be worded substantially as follows:

6 ". (insert the percentage) PERCENT OF THE SIGNATURES ON
7 THIS MEASURE WERE INCLUDED ON PETITIONS WHERE PAID SIGNATURE
8 GATHERERS WERE USED TO SOLICIT SIGNATURES."

9 The statement must be included immediately after the legal
10 identification of the measure on the page where the proponents advocate
11 approval of the measure.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If any provision of this act or its
13 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
14 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
15 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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