
SENATE BILL 6596

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Costa and Patterson

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to legislative hearings on initiatives and
2 referendums; amending RCW 42.17.130; and adding a new section to
3 chapter 29.79 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 29.79 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 After certification of sufficiency by the secretary of state and no
8 less than thirty days before the initiatives and referendum measures
9 are submitted to a vote of the people, the legislature shall hold
10 hearings on each initiative and referendum.

11 The standing committees of the senate and house of representatives
12 to which the matter, if it had been made the subject of a bill
13 introduced in the legislature and by the same process used by the
14 legislature to refer bills to standing committees, would have been
15 referred, shall hold the hearings.

16 Nothing in this section may be held to diminish the constitutional
17 rights of any person or to limit or repeal any other requirements
18 imposed by statute or otherwise recognized by law. In no event may any

1 initiative or referendum measure be subject to any claim of invalidity
2 made under this section.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 42.17.130 and 1979 ex.s. c 265 s 2 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 No elective official nor any employee of his office nor any person
6 appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or
7 authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or
8 agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign
9 for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or
10 opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of public office or
11 agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage,
12 machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency
13 during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the
14 office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office
15 or agency: PROVIDED, That the foregoing provisions of this section
16 shall not apply to the following activities:

17 (1) Action taken at an open public meeting by members of an elected
18 legislative body to express a collective decision, or to actually vote
19 upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance, or to support
20 or oppose a ballot proposition so long as (a) any required notice of
21 the meeting includes the title and number of the ballot proposition,
22 and (b) members of the legislative body or members of the public are
23 afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an
24 opposing view;

25 (2) A statement by an elected official in support of or in
26 opposition to any ballot proposition at an open press conference or in
27 response to a specific inquiry;

28 (3) Activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of
29 the office or agency;

30 (4) Activities of the legislature in compliance with section 1 of
31 this act.

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