
HOUSE BILL 1559

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representative McDermott

Read first time 01/29/2001. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to information about initiatives; adding new
2 sections to chapter 29.79 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
3 29.81 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 The attorney general shall prepare a comprehensive summary of each
8 initiative to the people that is certified to the ballot and each
9 initiative to the legislature, and any alternative measure proposed by
10 the legislature that will appear on the ballot. The comprehensive
11 summary must include a detailed description of the initiative
12 provisions, a discussion of potential constitutional issues that may
13 arise from the initiative if it were to be approved by state voters,
14 and an executive summary of the description and potential
15 constitutional issues. The detailed description, and in particular the
16 executive summary, must be written in clear and concise language and
17 avoid legal and technical terms when possible. The comprehensive
18 summary must be available online from the secretary of state's website.
19 The executive summary must be included in the state voters' pamphlet.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29.79 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The office of financial management shall prepare a fiscal note for
4 each initiative to the people that is certified to the ballot and each
5 initiative to the legislature, and any alternative measure proposed by
6 the legislature that will appear on the ballot. The fiscal note must
7 describe any projected increases or decreases in revenues, costs,
8 expenditures, or indebtedness that the state and local governments will
9 experience if the initiative measure were approved by state voters.
10 The fiscal note must include an executive summary of these fiscal
11 impacts that is written in clear and concise language and avoids legal
12 and technical terms when possible, and may include easy to understand
13 graphics. The fiscal note must be available online from the secretary
14 of state's website. The executive summary must be included in the
15 state voters' pamphlet.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 29.81 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 In addition to other information required to be included in the
19 voters' pamphlet on an initiative, the secretary of state shall include
20 the initiative's comprehensive summary prepared under section 1 of this
21 act and the initiative's fiscal note prepared under section 2 of this
22 act. This additional information must be presented highlighting the
23 executive summaries.

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