
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5705

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on State & Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Deccio, T. Sheldon, Honeyford, Rasmussen, Benton, Prentice, Oke, Jacobsen, Thibaudeau, Franklin, B. Sheldon, Shin, McCaslin, Parlette, Winsley, Fraser, Costa, Sheahan, Hewitt, Carlson, Regala, Kline, Kohl-Welles and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to initiatives; amending RCW 29.79.040; and adding
2 a new section to chapter 29.79 RCW.

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

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

6 If an initiative, whether to the people or to the legislature,
7 would require spending public funds for its implementation, the office
8 of financial management shall prepare a fiscal impact statement for the
9 initiative. Fiscal impact statements must be written in clear and
10 concise language and avoid legal and technical terms when possible, and
11 may include easily understood graphics.

12 A fiscal impact statement must describe any projected increase or
13 decrease in revenues, costs, expenditures, or indebtedness that the
14 state or local governments will experience if the initiative is
15 approved by state voters. Where appropriate, a fiscal impact statement
16 may include both estimated dollar amounts and a description placing the
17 estimated dollar amounts into context. A fiscal impact statement must
18 include both a summary of not to exceed one hundred words and a more

1 detailed statement that includes the assumptions that were made to
2 develop the fiscal impacts.

3 Fiscal impact statements must be available on line from the
4 secretary of state's web site and included in the state voters'
5 pamphlet.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29.79.040 and 2000 c 197 s 2 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) Within five days after the receipt of an initiative or
9 referendum the attorney general shall formulate the ballot title, or
10 portion of the ballot title that the legislature has not provided,
11 required by RCW 29.79.035 and a summary of the measure, not to exceed
12 seventy-five words, and transmit the serial number for the measure,
13 complete ballot title, and summary to the secretary of state.
14 Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays are not counted in calculating
15 the time limits in this section.

16 (2) If an initiative increases spending, the following wording in
17 bold type must appear after the ballot title:

18 "This measure has been determined to cost a significant amount of
19 money to implement.

20 If it passes, a tax increase or a new tax may be required or
21 significant cuts to vital state services may occur."

22 This statement must appear in bold print along with the ballot
23 title on all documents in which the ballot title is required to appear,
24 and must appear in all forms of advertising and displays.

--- END ---