
HOUSE BILL 1105

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Jarrett, Moeller, Sells, Fromhold, Conway, Grant, Hunt, Haigh, Pettigrew, Morris, Tom, Santos, Ormsby, Williams, Linville, Kilmer, Roberts, Cody, Flannigan, Wallace, Darneille, Kagi, Chase, Dickerson and Upthegrove

Read first time 01/14/2005. Referred to Committee on State Government Operations & Accountability.

1 AN ACT Relating to residency, age, and payment of petition
2 signature gatherers; adding a new section to chapter 29A.72 RCW;
3 creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the preservation
6 of the integrity of the initiative and referendum process is of utmost
7 importance to the citizens of Washington. To protect the process from
8 fraudulent practices, compensation per signature, and the residency and
9 age of signature gatherers need to be addressed.

10 The legislature finds that paying workers who gather signatures for
11 initiatives and referendum petitions on the basis of the number of
12 signatures the worker secures increases the possibility of fraud in the
13 signature gathering process. This practice may encourage the signature
14 gatherer to misrepresent the ballot measure, to apply undue pressure on
15 a person to sign a petition that the person is not qualified to sign,
16 to encourage signing even if the person has previously signed, or to
17 invite forgery.

18 Article II of the Washington state Constitution reserves to the
19 people the power of the initiative and referendum. Washington gives

1 signature gatherers a major role in the electoral process, for they
2 collect signatures to put before Washington citizens significant issues
3 that may become law. Existing Washington law requires that a sponsor
4 who files a proposed initiative or referendum with the Secretary of
5 State be a registered Washington voter and that those who sign the
6 petition be registered Washington voters. The legislature finds that
7 the significant role in enacting state law played by petition signature
8 gatherers should be undertaken only by residents of Washington at least
9 eighteen years old.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 29A.72 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) A person who solicits or collects signatures on a statewide
13 initiative or referendum petition must be a resident of Washington and
14 must be at least eighteen years of age. The secretary of state may
15 make rules to implement this subsection.

16 (2) A person who pays another for soliciting or collecting
17 signatures on an initiative or referendum petition must pay wages at an
18 hourly rate or salary equal to or more than the minimum wage
19 established under RCW 49.46.020. The department of labor and
20 industries must enforce this subsection in a manner consistent with
21 Title 49 RCW.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
23 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
24 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
25 immediately.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its
27 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
28 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
29 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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