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SENATE BILL 6318

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Pflug, Roach, Mulliken, Benson, Benton, Carrell, Parlette, Oke, Deccio, Delvin, Esser, Honeyford, Hewitt and Sheldon

Read first time 01/11/2006.      Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1            AN ACT Relating to declarations of emergency by the legislature;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
5 preserve the constitutional right of the people to have the power of  
6 referendum. Recently, this power has been limited due to the overuse  
7 of emergency clauses in legislation. The legislature finds that the  
8 emergency clause should be reserved for true emergencies rather than  
9 usurping the referendum power of the people.

10           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12           In order for an act to be necessary for the immediate preservation  
13 of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state  
14 government and its existing public institutions, as stated in Article  
15 II, section 1 of the Washington State Constitution, there must be a  
16 two-thirds vote of the legislators elected or appointed to each house

1 of the legislature.

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