

SB 6754 - S AMD 123

By Senator McDermott

ADOPTED 02/15/2010

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 29A.72.230 and 2003 c 111 s 1823 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Upon the filing of an initiative or referendum petition, the
6 secretary of state shall proceed to verify and canvass the names of the
7 legal voters on the petition. The verification and canvass of
8 signatures on the petition may be observed by persons representing the
9 advocates and opponents of the proposed measure so long as they make no
10 record of the names, addresses, or other information on the petitions
11 or related records during the verification process except upon the
12 order of the superior court of Thurston county. The secretary of state
13 may limit the number of observers to not less than two on each side, if
14 in his or her opinion, a greater number would cause undue delay or
15 disruption of the verification process. Any such limitation shall
16 apply equally to both sides. The secretary of state may use any
17 statistical sampling techniques for this verification and canvass which
18 have been adopted by rule as provided by chapter 34.05 RCW. No
19 petition will be rejected on the basis of any statistical method
20 employed, and no petition will be accepted on the basis of any
21 statistical method employed if such method indicates that the petition
22 contains fewer than the requisite number of signatures of legal voters.
23 If the secretary of state finds the same name signed to more than one
24 petition, he or she shall reject all but the first such valid
25 signature. For an initiative to the legislature, the secretary of
26 state shall transmit a certified copy of the proposed measure to the
27 legislature at the opening of its session and, as soon as the
28 signatures on the petition have been verified and canvassed, the
29 secretary of state shall send to the legislature a certificate of the

1 facts relating to the filing, verification, and canvass of the
2 petition.

3 The names, addresses, and signatures of persons who signed the
4 petition are public records under chapter 42.56 RCW and may be made
5 available for public inspection and copying.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.72.140 and 2003 c 111 s 1815 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The word "warning" and the following warning statement
9 regarding signing petitions must appear on petitions as prescribed by
10 this title and must be printed on each petition sheet such that they
11 occupy not less than four square inches of the front of the petition
12 sheet.

13 WARNING

14 Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her
15 true name, knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, signs this
16 petition when he or she is not a legal voter, or makes any false
17 statement on this petition may be punished by fine or imprisonment or
18 both.

19 (2) The following statement must appear on petitions as prescribed
20 by this title and must be printed on each petition sheet.

21 Signature petitions are public documents. By signing this
22 document, your name, address, and signature may be released as part of
23 a public records request."

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24 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "petitions;" strike the
25 remainder of the title and insert "and amending RCW 29A.72.230 and
26 29A.72.140."

EFFECT: The changes make the language in the bill consistent with

current practices. Additionally, the striking amendment clarifies that the signatures as well as the name and address of a petition signatory are public documents.

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