
HOUSE BILL 2994

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton, Miloscia, Hunt, and Darneille

Read first time 01/20/10. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting public service announcements by
2 elected officials during reelection campaigns; adding a new section to
3 chapter 42.52 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 42.23 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the ethics in
7 public service act was enacted in order to make a distinction between
8 public duties and private affairs, and that the use of one's public
9 office should not be used for personal gain or private advantage. The
10 legislature further finds that public service announcements made by
11 elected officials during their reelection campaigns are the equivalent
12 of campaign advertisements and result in personal gain and private
13 advantage for incumbents at taxpayer expense. Therefore, the
14 legislature intends that public service announcements made by elected
15 officials be restricted during reelection campaigns.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 42.52 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 Except as provided in this section, during the period beginning

1 January 1st of a reelection year and continuing through the general
2 election, or until the official is no longer a candidate, a state
3 elected official may not make public service announcements. This
4 section does not apply to public service announcements that are part of
5 the regular duties of the state office that only mention or visually
6 display the state office or state office seal or logo and do not
7 mention or visually display the name of the state official in the
8 announcement.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 42.23 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 Except as provided in this section, during the period beginning
12 January 1st of a reelection year and continuing through the general
13 election, or until the official is no longer a candidate, a municipal
14 elected official may not make public service announcements. This
15 section does not apply to public service announcements that are part of
16 the regular duties of the officer that only mention or visually display
17 the office or office seal or logo and do not mention or visually
18 display the name of the municipal official in the announcement.

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