
HOUSE BILL 1898

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Liiias, Miloscia, Goodman, Billig, Hunt, Moscoso, Hasegawa, Pettigrew, Stanford, Frockt, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Kagi, Carlyle, Darneille, Moeller, McCoy, Roberts, Dickerson, Orwall, Dunshee, Eddy, Reykdal, Kenney, Ormsby, Green, Cody, Rolfes, Sells, and Jinkins

Read first time 02/08/11. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a public funding program for
2 supreme court campaigns; amending RCW 42.17A.750; reenacting and
3 amending RCW 3.62.060; adding a new section to chapter 36.18 RCW;
4 adding a new chapter to Title 42 RCW; prescribing penalties; providing
5 a contingent effective date; and providing for submission of this act
6 to a vote of the people.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. (1) The intent of this chapter is
9 to protect the fairness of elections for the highest court in
10 Washington state - the supreme court. Doing so will foster the
11 public's trust in the integrity and independence of the court in the
12 face of increasingly large sums of money raised and spent by special
13 interest groups. That flood of money threatens the impartiality,
14 independence, and credibility of the judiciary. To maintain public
15 confidence in the judiciary, we must prevent not only corruption, but
16 the appearance of corruption, for the judiciary is the one branch of
17 government that must be uniquely impartial, independent, and unbiased
18 in order to best serve the residents of Washington. It is destructive
19 for our democracy to allow the court to become influenced by large

1 amounts of money, and for citizens to think that judicial decisions are
2 influenced by those large amounts of money. This chapter is necessary
3 to ensure that the state's highest courts continue to be unbiased and
4 insulated from special interests.

5 (2) Therefore, this chapter, the judicial election reform act,
6 introduces a program to provide an alternative source of financing
7 candidates for the Washington supreme court who demonstrate public
8 support and voluntarily accept strict fund-raising and spending limits.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DEFINITIONS. In addition to the definitions
10 in RCW 42.17A.005, the definitions in this section apply throughout
11 this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 (1) "Contested election" means an election in which there are two
13 or more candidates running for the same office whose names will appear
14 on the ballot.

15 (2) "Nonparticipating candidate" means a candidate for supreme
16 court justice who is on the ballot but has chosen not to apply for
17 public funds from the judicial election reform act fund or a candidate
18 who is on the ballot and has applied but has not been certified to
19 receive public funds from the judicial election reform act fund.

20 (3) "Publicly financed candidate" means a candidate who becomes
21 certified to receive public campaign funds under section 6 of this act.

22 (4) "Qualifying contribution" means a contribution in an amount of
23 at least ten dollars, but no more than twenty-five percent of the
24 maximum contribution limit allowed under RCW 42.17A.410, made by a
25 registered voter of the state, and that is received during the
26 qualifying period.

27 (5) "Qualifying period" means the period beginning February 1st of
28 the election year and ending thirty days after the close of the regular
29 filing period for the office.

30 (6) "Uncontested election" means an election in which a candidate
31 running for a specified office has no opponent on the ballot.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** JUDICIAL ELECTION REFORM ACT FUND. (1) The
33 judicial election reform act fund is created in the custody of the
34 state treasurer. All receipts under this chapter required to be
35 deposited into the fund must be deposited into the fund. Expenditures
36 from the fund may be used only for the purposes of this chapter. Only

1 the commission may authorize expenditures from the fund. The fund is
2 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
3 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

4 (2) When the funds in the account have been fully distributed, the
5 commission and the treasurer must cease making any public funds
6 disbursements under section 11 of this act. No candidate may receive
7 any disbursement of funds beyond those authorized under section 11 of
8 this act, nor may any candidate receive any further disbursements of
9 funds under section 11 of this act when the fund has been exhausted.
10 The commission may adopt rules to address distribution of remaining
11 funds in the account for pending requests.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** VOLUNTARY LIMITATIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
13 JUDICIAL CAMPAIGNS. A publicly financed candidate and a publicly
14 financed candidate's authorized committee shall:

15 (1) Only accept contributions from individuals, and only as
16 qualifying contributions under section 5 of this act;

17 (2) During the qualifying period and solely for the purpose of
18 raising qualifying contributions, accept no more than two times the
19 contribution limit under RCW 42.17A.410 of the candidate's personal
20 funds;

21 (3) Collect at least three hundred fifty qualifying contributions
22 that, in the aggregate, total at least twenty-five times the filing fee
23 for the office of supreme court justice in accordance with section 5 of
24 this act;

25 (4) File the required reports regarding qualifying and expenditures
26 to the commission;

27 (5) Sign a joint statement with the treasurer of the publicly
28 financed candidate's authorized committee, under oath, promising to
29 comply with the provisions of this chapter and chapter 42.17A RCW; and

30 (6) Comply with the provisions of this chapter and chapter 42.17A
31 RCW to the extent required for publicly funded candidates as prescribed
32 by the commission.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION. A candidate
34 who wishes to receive public campaign funds must:

35 (1) File an application with the commission declaring his or her
36 intent to participate in the program as a candidate for the supreme

1 court. The application must be filed before or during the qualifying
2 period. In the application, the candidate must affirm that only one
3 political committee, identified with its treasurer, must handle all
4 contributions, expenditures, and obligations for the publicly financed
5 candidate and that the candidate will comply with the provisions in
6 this chapter and rules adopted by the commission; and

7 (2) Obtain at least three hundred fifty qualifying contributions
8 that, in the aggregate, total at least twenty-five times the filing fee
9 for the office by the end of the qualifying period. No payment, gift,
10 or anything of value may be given in exchange for a qualifying
11 contribution. A qualifying contribution must be:

12 (a) Made by a registered voter of the state;

13 (b) Made by a person who is not given anything of value in exchange
14 for the qualifying contribution;

15 (c) In an amount of at least ten dollars but not more than twenty-
16 five percent of the contribution limit allowed under RCW 42.17A.410;

17 (d) Received during the qualifying period by the candidate or on
18 behalf of the candidate; and

19 (e) Made by check, money order, or credit card.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** CERTIFICATION AS A PUBLICLY FINANCED
21 CANDIDATE. (1) Upon receipt of an application, the commission must
22 determine whether or not the candidate has complied with the following
23 requirements:

24 (a) Signed and filed an application to participate;

25 (b) Submitted a report itemizing the qualifying contributions
26 received. The report must include the name, home address, telephone
27 number, and county of residence for each person who made a contribution
28 and the date the contribution was received, and any other information
29 required by the commission;

30 (c) Submitted a check or money order equal to the total qualifying
31 contributions, less money expended for the purpose of raising
32 qualifying contributions received by the candidate in accordance with
33 section 7 of this act, made out to the judicial election reform act
34 fund; and

35 (d) Submitted affidavits signed by persons collecting qualifying
36 contributions stating that, to the best of his or her knowledge, the
37 contribution was made by a registered voter of the state.

1 (2) Once the requirements in subsection (1) of this section are
2 met, the commission must verify that a sufficient number of qualifying
3 contributions were made by registered voters of the state at the time
4 the contribution was made.

5 (3) The commission must determine if a candidate meets the
6 requirements for public financing within seven calendar days of the
7 filing of an application. If the requirements of subsection (2) of
8 this section are met, the commission must certify the candidate for
9 public financing. If the commission denies certification, it must
10 provide written reasons why certification is denied. Any candidate who
11 is denied certification may reapply one time by submitting the required
12 information or the number of qualifying contributions needed to
13 complete the certification within fourteen calendar days of the date of
14 the commission's decision.

15 (4) A candidate who is certified as a publicly financed candidate
16 may use that designation in campaign materials and will be so
17 designated in the state voters' pamphlet.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS. (1) A publicly
19 financed candidate may expend money received as qualifying
20 contributions, as well as the candidate's personal funds, to pay for
21 expenses related to raising qualifying contributions. The amount of
22 qualifying contributions used for this purpose may not exceed fifty
23 percent of the minimum dollar amount of qualifying contributions
24 required under section 5 of this act. Expenditures made for the
25 purpose of this section must be reported as required under RCW
26 42.17A.235 and 42.17A.240 or as determined by the commission by rule.

27 (2) If a candidate attempts to qualify for public funding but does
28 not meet the threshold for qualification, withdraws from the program
29 before certification, is denied certification under section 6 of this
30 act, or revokes participation under section 10 of this act, the
31 candidate may keep the total dollar amount of qualifying contributions
32 received during the qualifying period.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** CONTROLS ON A PUBLICLY FINANCED CANDIDATE'S
34 AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE. A publicly financed candidate and the publicly
35 financed candidate's authorized committee must file the reports
36 required pursuant to this chapter as determined by the commission.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** USES OF PUBLIC FUNDS. (1) Money in the
2 account of a publicly financed candidate's authorized committee may
3 only be used for purposes directly related to the candidate's campaign.

4 (2) Money in the account of a publicly financed candidate's
5 authorized committee may not be used to pay fines or civil penalties,
6 for costs or legal fees related to representation before the
7 commission, or for defense of an enforcement action under this chapter.
8 Nothing in this chapter prevents a publicly financed candidate from
9 having a legal defense fund.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** REVOCATION. (1) A publicly financed
11 candidate may revoke in writing to the commission a decision to
12 participate in the public financing program no later than thirty days
13 after the end of the qualifying period in the year of the election.
14 After a timely revocation, that candidate may accept and expend money
15 outside the provisions of this act. Within thirty days after
16 revocation, a candidate must return to the commission all money
17 received under section 11 of this act.

18 (2) A publicly financed candidate who revokes a decision to
19 participate in the public financing program after the time period
20 established in subsection (1) of this section must return all money
21 received under section 11 of this act and pay a fine of one thousand
22 dollars per day for each day beyond the allowed revocation period and
23 the day the candidate revokes.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** CAMPAIGN FUNDING. (1)(a) Within five
25 business days after a publicly financed candidate's name is approved to
26 appear on the primary ballot by the appropriate elections officer, the
27 commission must authorize the state treasurer to distribute to the
28 account of the authorized committee of each certified publicly financed
29 candidate an amount equal to one hundred times the filing fee as
30 established in RCW 29A.24.091 for the primary.

31 (b) Within five business days after a publicly financed candidate's
32 name is approved to appear on the general election ballot, the
33 commission must authorize the state treasurer to distribute funds to
34 the account of the authorized committee of each certified publicly
35 financed candidate in an amount equal to one hundred twenty-five times
36 the filing fee for the office as established in RCW 29A.24.091.

1 (c) Participating candidates in uncontested elections must receive
2 four times the filing fee as established in RCW 29A.24.091, plus the
3 net amount of qualifying contributions previously remitted to the
4 commission pursuant to section 6 of this act.

5 (2) A publicly financed candidate must return within ten calendar
6 days to the judicial election reform act fund any amount distributed
7 for an election that is unspent and uncommitted as of the date the
8 candidate ceases to be a candidate or as of the date of the election,
9 whichever occurs first.

10 (3) The commission must authorize and the state treasurer must
11 distribute funds to publicly financed candidates in a manner that
12 ensures accountability and safeguards the integrity of the fund.

13 (4) The commission has the authority to increase or decrease the
14 amount of funds authorized under this section depending on the amount
15 of money in the fund, the number of candidates applying to the program,
16 the number of contested races, and other reasons deemed to be pertinent
17 for funding participating candidates. The commission shall adopt rules
18 to implement procedures under this section.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** REPORTS. (1)(a) Any nonparticipating
20 candidate who has a publicly financed opponent must report total
21 contributions received to the commission electronically within twenty-
22 four hours after the total amount of contributions received exceeds
23 eighty percent of the amount authorized for publicly financed
24 candidates under section 11 of this act, and must make subsequent
25 reports as required by the commission to monitor contributions.

26 (b) Any person making independent expenditures or electioneering
27 communications in excess of three thousand dollars in support of or
28 opposition to a publicly financed candidate, or in support of a
29 candidate opposing a publicly financed candidate, must file a report
30 with the commission within twenty-four hours of the date the
31 independent expenditure or electioneering communication is contracted
32 for, agreed to, or otherwise obligated. The report must include the
33 following information:

34 (i) The name and address of the sponsor;

35 (ii) The source of funds for the independent expenditure or
36 electioneering communication;

1 (iii) Any other source information required by the commission by
2 rule;

3 (iv) The name and address of the person to whom the independent
4 expenditure or electioneering communication expenditure was made;

5 (v) A detailed description of the expenditure;

6 (vi) The date the expenditure was contracted for, agreed to, or
7 otherwise obligated;

8 (vii) The amount of the expenditure; and

9 (viii) Any other information the commission may require.

10 (c) The commission may adopt rules implementing the provisions of
11 this section, including rules that determine whether filing under this
12 section satisfies the filing requirements under other provisions of
13 this chapter and chapter 42.17A RCW.

14 (2) Publicly financed candidates must report in accordance with
15 rules adopted by the commission. A publicly financed candidate who
16 revokes his or her participation in the program, who ceases to be a
17 candidate, or who loses an election must file a final report with the
18 commission and return any unspent disbursements received from the
19 judicial election reform act fund. In developing reporting
20 requirements for publicly financed candidates, the commission must use
21 existing campaign reporting procedures when determined practicable by
22 the commission.

23 (3) Any person who fails to report a contribution or expenditure as
24 required by this section is subject to a civil penalty equal to the
25 contribution or expenditure not reported.

26 (4) The commission must ensure prompt public access to the reports
27 received under this section.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** DISQUALIFICATION FROM PROGRAM. If the
29 commission finds that a publicly financed candidate or the publicly
30 financed candidate's committee is accepting or expending money outside
31 the provisions of section 4 of this act, the candidate is disqualified
32 from the program, is subject to a civil penalty under RCW 42.17A.750,
33 and must return all money received from the judicial election reform
34 act fund.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT DUTIES. In
36 implementing the provisions of this chapter, the commission shall:

1 (1) Prescribe forms for reports, statements, notices, and other
2 documents as required by this chapter;

3 (2) Prepare and publish instructions to facilitate compliance with
4 this chapter and explaining the duties of persons and committees under
5 this chapter;

6 (3) Adopt rules to carry out the policies of this chapter. These
7 rules are not subject to the time restrictions of RCW 42.17A.110; and

8 (4) Enforce the provisions of this chapter, ensure that money
9 transferred from the judicial election reform act fund into the account
10 of an authorized committee of a publicly financed candidate is spent as
11 specified, and monitor reports filed and financial records of
12 candidates as needed.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** EXPEDITED ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW. (1) The
14 commission shall develop an expedited administrative review process
15 that is not subject to the adjudicative proceedings of chapter 34.05
16 RCW. However, commission findings are subject to judicial review under
17 RCW 34.05.570(4).

18 (2) Candidates and potential candidates whom the commission finds
19 ineligible to participate in the program may seek expedited
20 administrative review of commission decisions.

21 (3) In an expedited administrative review process, the commission
22 shall issue a final decision no more than five calendar days after
23 review is requested.

24 (4) The commission may adopt rules to implement this section.

25 (5) Any petition for judicial review of a final decision in an
26 expedited administrative review must be filed within five calendar days
27 of the final decision. In any judicial review, the court may not grant
28 a stay or temporary relief unless it finds the conditions specified in
29 RCW 34.05.550(3) (a), (b), and (c).

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** The commission may not offer the program in
31 this chapter until one million dollars is in the judicial election
32 reform act fund.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** The commission may solicit and accept
34 gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests, and devises of real or personal
35 property, or both, in trust or otherwise, and sell, lease, exchange,

1 invest, or expend these donations or the proceeds, rents, profits, and
2 income from the donations except as limited by the donor's terms.
3 Moneys received under this section must be deposited into the judicial
4 election reform act fund established in section 3 of this act and may
5 only be used for the purposes of sections 1 through 15 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 18.** The commission must report to the governor
7 and to the appropriate committees of the legislature in January of
8 even-numbered years on the effectiveness of the judicial election
9 reform act once the program is offered.

10 **Sec. 19.** RCW 42.17A.750 and 2010 c 204 s 1001 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 One or more of the following civil remedies and sanctions may be
13 imposed by court order in addition to any other remedies provided by
14 law:

15 (1) If the court finds that the violation of any provision of this
16 chapter by any candidate or political committee probably affected the
17 outcome of any election, the result of that election may be held void
18 and a special election held within sixty days of the finding. Any
19 action to void an election shall be commenced within one year of the
20 date of the election in question. It is intended that this remedy be
21 imposed freely in all appropriate cases to protect the right of the
22 electorate to an informed and knowledgeable vote.

23 (2) If any lobbyist or sponsor of any grass roots lobbying campaign
24 violates any of the provisions of this chapter, his or her registration
25 may be revoked or suspended and he or she may be enjoined from
26 receiving compensation or making expenditures for lobbying. However,
27 the imposition of a sanction shall not excuse the lobbyist from filing
28 statements and reports required by this chapter.

29 (3) A person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter may
30 be subject to a civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for
31 each violation. However, a person or entity who violates RCW
32 42.17A.405 or 42.17A.410 may be subject to a civil penalty of ten
33 thousand dollars or three times the amount of the contribution
34 illegally made or accepted, whichever is greater.

35 (4) A person who fails to file a properly completed statement or

1 report within the time required by this chapter may be subject to a
2 civil penalty of ten dollars per day for each day each delinquency
3 continues.

4 (5) A person who fails to report a contribution or expenditure as
5 required by this chapter may be subject to a civil penalty equivalent
6 to the amount not reported as required.

7 (6) The court may enjoin any person to prevent the doing of any act
8 herein prohibited, or to compel the performance of any act required
9 herein.

10 (7)(a) The civil penalty for a violation of a contribution or
11 expenditure limit established under section 4 of this act by or on
12 behalf of a publicly financed candidate is ten times the amount by
13 which the expenditures or contributions exceed the applicable limit.
14 If the violation occurs within five days of an election, the civil
15 penalty is twenty times the amount by which the expenditures or
16 contributions exceed the applicable limit. A publicly financed
17 candidate found to have knowingly committed a violation of the
18 expenditure or contribution limits under section 4 of this act must pay
19 the applicable fines, surrender all money in the candidate's authorized
20 committee account to the judicial election reform act fund, and will
21 cease to be a publicly financed candidate.

22 (b) In addition to any other penalties imposed by law, the civil
23 penalty for a violation by or on behalf of a publicly financed
24 candidate of a reporting requirement imposed by this chapter is one
25 hundred dollars per day. A civil penalty imposed under this subsection
26 (7)(b) may not exceed twice the amount of expenditures or contributions
27 not reported in a timely manner. The candidate and the candidate's
28 authorized committee are jointly and severally responsible for a civil
29 penalty imposed under this subsection.

30 (c) The civil penalty for a violation of the revocation requirement
31 imposed by section 10 of this act is one thousand dollars per day for
32 each day past the period allowed for a timely revocation.

33 (d) The civil penalty for a violation of the reporting provisions
34 in section 12 of this act is equal to the amount not reported, less
35 self-contributed funds.

36 (e) All civil penalties collected under this subsection must be
37 deposited into the judicial election reform act fund.

1 **Sec. 20.** RCW 3.62.060 and 2009 c 572 s 1 and 2009 c 372 s 1 are
2 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3 Clerks of the district courts shall collect the following fees for
4 their official services:

5 (1) In any civil action commenced before or transferred to a
6 district court, the plaintiff shall, at the time of such commencement
7 or transfer, pay to such court a filing fee of forty-three dollars plus
8 any surcharge authorized by RCW 7.75.035. Any party filing a
9 counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim in such action shall
10 pay to the court a filing fee of forty-three dollars plus any surcharge
11 authorized by RCW 7.75.035. No party shall be compelled to pay to the
12 court any other fees or charges up to and including the rendition of
13 judgment in the action other than those listed.

14 (2) For issuing a writ of garnishment or other writ, or for filing
15 an attorney issued writ of garnishment, a fee of twelve dollars.

16 (3) For filing a supplemental proceeding a fee of twenty dollars.

17 (4) For demanding a jury in a civil case a fee of one hundred
18 twenty-five dollars to be paid by the person demanding a jury.

19 (5) For preparing a transcript of a judgment a fee of twenty
20 dollars.

21 (6) For certifying any document on file or of record in the clerk's
22 office a fee of five dollars.

23 (7) At the option of the district court:

24 (a) For preparing a certified copy of an instrument on file or of
25 record in the clerk's office, for the first page or portion of the
26 first page, a fee of five dollars, and for each additional page or
27 portion of a page, a fee of one dollar;

28 (b) For authenticating or exemplifying an instrument, a fee of two
29 dollars for each additional seal affixed;

30 (c) For preparing a copy of an instrument on file or of record in
31 the clerk's office without a seal, a fee of fifty cents per page;

32 (d) When copying a document without a seal or file that is in an
33 electronic format, a fee of twenty-five cents per page;

34 (e) For copies made on a compact disc, an additional fee of twenty
35 dollars for each compact disc.

36 (8) For preparing the record of a case for appeal to superior court
37 a fee of forty dollars including any costs of tape duplication as

1 governed by the rules of appeal for courts of limited jurisdiction
2 (RALJ).

3 (9) At the option of the district court, for clerk's services such
4 as processing ex parte orders, performing historical searches,
5 compiling statistical reports, and conducting exceptional record
6 searches, a fee not to exceed twenty dollars per hour or portion of an
7 hour.

8 (10) For duplication of part or all of the electronic recording of
9 a proceeding ten dollars per tape or other electronic storage medium.

10 (11) For filing any abstract of judgment or transcript of judgment
11 from a municipal court or municipal department of a district court
12 organized under the laws of this state a fee of forty-three dollars.

13 (12) At the option of the district court, a service fee of up to
14 three dollars for the first page and one dollar for each additional
15 page for receiving faxed documents, pursuant to Washington state rules
16 of court, general rule 17.

17 (13) Until July 1, 2011, in addition to the fees required by
18 subsection (1) of this section, clerks of the district courts shall
19 collect a surcharge of twenty dollars on all fees required by
20 subsection (1) of this section, which shall be remitted to the state
21 treasurer for deposit in the judicial stabilization trust account.
22 This surcharge is not subject to the division and remittance
23 requirements of RCW 3.62.020.

24 (14) Effective July 1, 2012, in addition to the fees required by
25 subsection (1) of this section, clerks of the district courts shall
26 collect a judicial integrity surcharge of three dollars on all fees
27 required by subsection (1) of this section, which shall be remitted to
28 the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial election reform act
29 fund created in section 3 of this act. This surcharge is not subject
30 to the division and remittance requirements of RCW 3.62.020.

31 The fees or charges imposed under this section shall be allowed as
32 court costs whenever a judgment for costs is awarded.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 21. A new section is added to chapter 36.18 RCW
34 to read as follows:

35 Effective July 1, 2012, a three-dollar judicial integrity surcharge
36 shall be added to each of the fees in RCW 36.18.012 except for the fees
37 in RCW 36.18.012(10), 36.18.016, and 36.18.020, that must be remitted

1 to the state treasurer for deposit in the judicial election reform act
2 fund created in section 3 of this act. Surcharges collected under this
3 section are not subject to the division and remittance requirements of
4 RCW 36.18.025 or 27.24.070 and no surcharge under this section may be
5 applied to any fee which, before applying other surcharges, is less
6 than twenty dollars.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 22.** This chapter may be known and cited as the
8 judicial election reform act.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 23.** This act shall be liberally construed to
10 effectuate its purposes and policies.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 24.** Sections 1 through 18, 22, and 23 of this
12 act constitute a new chapter in Title 42 RCW.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 25.** If any provision of this act or its
14 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
15 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
16 persons or circumstances is not affected.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 26.** If the people ratify this act as provided
18 in section 27 of this act, this act takes effect January 1, 2012.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 27.** (1) The secretary of state shall submit
20 this act to the people for their adoption and ratification, or
21 rejection, at the next general election to be held in this state, in
22 accordance with Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution and the
23 laws adopted to facilitate its operation.

24 (2) If the people ratify this act as specified in subsection (1) of
25 this section, revenues generated shall be spent as detailed in this
26 act.

27 (3) Pursuant to RCW 29A.72.050(6), the statement of subject and
28 concise description for the ballot title shall read: "The legislature
29 has passed House Bill No. ...(this act), concerning public funding for
30 supreme court campaigns. This bill would establish a voluntary public

1 funding program for candidates for supreme court justice."

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