

SSB 5715 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on State Government

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

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 29A.72.050 and 2003 c 111 s 1806 are each amended
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The ballot title for an initiative to the people, an
6 initiative to the legislature, a referendum bill, or a referendum
7 measure consists of: (a) A statement of the subject of the measure;
8 (b) a concise description of the measure; and (c) a question in the
9 form prescribed in this section for the ballot measure in question.
10 The statement of the subject of a measure must be sufficiently broad
11 to reflect the subject of the measure, sufficiently precise to give
12 notice of the measure's subject matter, and not exceed ten words. The
13 concise description must contain no more than thirty words, be a true
14 and impartial description of the measure's essential contents,
15 clearly identify the proposition to be voted on, and not, to the
16 extent reasonably possible, create prejudice either for or against
17 the measure.

18 (2) For an initiative to the people, or for an initiative to the
19 legislature for which the legislature has not proposed an
20 alternative, the ballot title must be displayed on the ballot
21 substantially as follows:

22 "Initiative Measure No. . . . concerns (statement of
23 subject). This measure would (concise description). Should
24 this measure be enacted into law?

25 Yes

26 No

27 The ballot title under this subsection is subject to revision
28 under RCW 29A.72.250 (2) or (3).

29 (3) For an initiative to the legislature for which the
30 legislature has proposed an alternative, the ballot title must be
31 displayed on the ballot substantially as follows:

1 "Initiative Measure Nos. . . . and . . .B concern (statement
2 of subject).

3 Initiative Measure No. . . . would (concise description).

4 As an alternative, the legislature has proposed Initiative
5 Measure No. . . .B, which would (concise description).

6 1. Should either of these measures be enacted into law?

7 Yes

8 No

9 2. Regardless of whether you voted yes or no above, if one of
10 these measures is enacted, which one should it be?

11 Measure No.

12 or

13 Measure No.

14 (4) For a referendum bill submitted to the people by the
15 legislature, the ballot issue must be displayed on the ballot
16 substantially as follows:

17 "The legislature has passed Bill No. . . . concerning
18 (statement of subject). This bill would (concise
19 description). Should this bill be:

20 Approved

21 Rejected

22 (5) For a referendum measure by state voters on a bill the
23 legislature has passed, the ballot issue must be displayed on the
24 ballot substantially as follows:

25 "The legislature passed Bill No. . . . concerning
26 (statement of subject) and voters have filed a sufficient
27 referendum petition on this bill. This bill would (concise
28 description). Should this bill be:

29 Approved

30 Rejected

31 (6) The legislature may specify the statement of subject or
32 concise description, or both, in a referendum bill that it refers to
33 the people. The legislature may specify the concise description for

1 an alternative it submits for an initiative to the legislature. If
2 the legislature fails to specify these matters, the attorney general
3 shall prepare the material that was not specified. The statement of
4 subject and concise description as so provided must be included as
5 part of the ballot title unless changed on appeal.

6 The attorney general shall specify the statement of subject and
7 concise description for an initiative to the people, an initiative to
8 the legislature, and a referendum measure. The statement of subject
9 and concise description as so provided must be included as part of
10 the ballot title unless changed on appeal.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.72.250 and 2013 c 11 s 75 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) If a referendum or initiative petition for submission of a
14 measure to the people is found sufficient, the secretary of state
15 shall at the time and in the manner that he or she certifies to the
16 county auditors of the various counties the names of candidates for
17 state and district officers certify to each county auditor the serial
18 numbers and ballot titles of the several initiative and referendum
19 measures and serial numbers and short descriptions of measures
20 submitted for an advisory vote of the people to be voted upon at the
21 next ensuing general election or special election ordered by the
22 legislature.

23 (2) For an initiative to the people, or for an initiative to the
24 legislature for which the legislature has not proposed an
25 alternative, that has been certified for the ballot, and for which
26 the fiscal impact statement prepared pursuant to RCW 29A.72.025
27 indicates that the initiative will result in an estimated net
28 biennial increase in state expenditures of twenty-five million
29 dollars or greater, or an estimated net biennial decrease in state
30 revenues of twenty-five million dollars or greater, the ballot title
31 to be displayed in the voters' pamphlet and on the ballot shall be
32 revised substantially as follows:

33 "Initiative Measure No. . . . concerns (statement of
34 subject). This measure would (concise description). The state
35 budget office has determined that this proposal is estimated
36 to have an unfunded net impact of (amount) per biennium on
37 the state budget. This means other state spending may need to

1 be reduced or taxes increased to implement the proposal.

2 Should this measure be enacted into law?

3 Yes

4 No

5 (3) For an initiative to the people, or for an initiative to the
6 legislature for which the legislature has not proposed an
7 alternative, that has been certified for the ballot, and for which
8 the fiscal impact statement prepared pursuant to RCW 29A.72.025
9 indicates that the initiative will result in an estimated net
10 biennial decrease in state expenditures of twenty-five million
11 dollars or greater, or an estimated net biennial increase in state
12 revenues of twenty-five million dollars or greater, the ballot title
13 to be displayed in the voters' pamphlet and on the ballot shall be
14 revised substantially as follows:

15 "Initiative Measure No. concerns (statement of
16 subject). This measure would (concise description). The state
17 budget office has determined that this proposal would have
18 net positive impact of (amount) on the state budget. This
19 means additional funding may be available for other state
20 spending or taxes decreased as a result of the proposal.
21 Should this measure be enacted into law?

22 Yes

23 No

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act takes effect January 1, 2016."

25 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Changes the phrase "would have" to "is estimated to have" for purposes of the impact on the state budget.

(2) Adds language to indicate that the amount of the impact to the state budget is per biennium.

(3) Requires the ballot title to include a statement on the net positive impact of an initiative that increases revenue, or decreases expenditures, by at least 25 million dollars.

--- END ---