
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5715

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Fain, Pedersen, Braun, and Angel)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to including the contents of fiscal impact
2 statements in the ballot title for certain initiative measures;
3 amending RCW 29A.72.050 and 29A.72.250; and providing an effective
4 date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.72.050 and 2003 c 111 s 1806 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

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

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

5 "Initiative Measure No. . . . concerns (statement of
6 subject). This measure would (concise description). Should
7 this measure be enacted into law?

8 Yes

9 No

10 The ballot title under this subsection is subject to revision
11 under RCW 29A.72.250(2).

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

15 "Initiative Measure Nos. . . . and . . .B concern (statement
16 of subject).

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

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

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

21 Yes

22 No

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

25 Measure No.

26 or

27 Measure No.

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

31 "The legislature has passed Bill No. . . . concerning
32 (statement of subject). This bill would (concise
33 description). Should this bill be:

1 Approved

2 Rejected

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

6 "The legislature passed . . . Bill No. . . . concerning
7 (statement of subject) and voters have filed a sufficient
8 referendum petition on this bill. This bill would (concise
9 description). Should this bill be:

10 Approved

11 Rejected

12 (6) The legislature may specify the statement of subject or
13 concise description, or both, in a referendum bill that it refers to
14 the people. The legislature may specify the concise description for
15 an alternative it submits for an initiative to the legislature. If
16 the legislature fails to specify these matters, the attorney general
17 shall prepare the material that was not specified. The statement of
18 subject and concise description as so provided must be included as
19 part of the ballot title unless changed on appeal.

20 The attorney general shall specify the statement of subject and
21 concise description for an initiative to the people, an initiative to
22 the legislature, and a referendum measure. The statement of subject
23 and concise description as so provided must be included as part of
24 the ballot title unless changed on appeal.

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

27 (1) If a referendum or initiative petition for submission of a
28 measure to the people is found sufficient, the secretary of state
29 shall at the time and in the manner that he or she certifies to the
30 county auditors of the various counties the names of candidates for
31 state and district officers certify to each county auditor the serial
32 numbers and ballot titles of the several initiative and referendum
33 measures and serial numbers and short descriptions of measures
34 submitted for an advisory vote of the people to be voted upon at the
35 next ensuing general election or special election ordered by the
36 legislature.

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

11 "Initiative Measure No. . . . concerns (statement of
12 subject). This measure would (concise description). The state
13 budget office has determined that this proposal would have an
14 unfunded net impact of (amount) on the state budget. This
15 means other state spending may need to be reduced or taxes
16 increased to implement the proposal. Should this measure be
17 enacted into law?

18 Yes
19 No

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

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