
HOUSE BILL 1453

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Representatives Bergquist, Volz, Valdez, Lekanoff, Shewmake, Sutherland, and Riccelli

Read first time 02/02/21. Referred to Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations.

1 AN ACT Relating to voters' pamphlets; amending RCW 29A.32.010,
2 29A.32.020, 29A.32.031, 29A.32.060, 29A.32.070, 29A.32.090,
3 29A.32.110, 29A.32.121, 29A.32.210, 29A.32.220, 29A.32.230,
4 29A.32.241, 29A.32.250, 29A.32.260, 29A.32.280, and 29A.72.025; and
5 providing an effective date.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.32.010 and 2003 c 111 s 801 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 The secretary of state shall, whenever at least one statewide
10 measure or office is scheduled to appear on the general election
11 ballot, print and distribute a voters' pamphlet.

12 The secretary of state shall distribute the voters' pamphlet to
13 each household in the state, to public libraries, and to any other
14 locations he or she deems appropriate. The secretary of state shall
15 also produce (~~taped~~) recorded or Braille transcripts of the voters'
16 pamphlet, publicize their availability, and mail without charge a
17 copy to any person who requests one.

18 The secretary of state may make the material required to be
19 distributed by this chapter available to the public in electronic
20 form. The secretary of state may provide the material in electronic
21 form to (~~computer bulletin boards~~) web based, print, and broadcast

1 news media, (~~community computer networks,~~) and similar services at
2 the cost of reproduction or transmission of the data.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.020 and 2003 c 111 s 802 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 No person or entity may publish or distribute any campaign
6 material that is deceptively similar in design or appearance to a
7 voters' pamphlet that was published by the secretary of state during
8 the ten-year period before the publication or distribution of the
9 campaign material by the person or entity. The secretary of state
10 shall take reasonable measures to prevent or to stop violations of
11 this section. Such measures may include, among others, petitioning
12 the superior court for a temporary restraining order or other
13 appropriate injunctive relief. In addition, the secretary may request
14 the superior court to impose a civil fine on a violator of this
15 section. The court is authorized to levy on and recover from each
16 violator a civil fine not to exceed the greater of: (1) (~~Two~~) Five
17 dollars for each copy of the deceptive material distributed, or (2)
18 (~~one thousand dollars~~) \$10,000. In addition, the violator is liable
19 for the state's legal expenses and other costs resulting from the
20 violation. Any funds recovered under this section must be transmitted
21 to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.32.031 and 2020 c 208 s 11 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 The voters' pamphlet published or distributed under RCW
25 29A.32.010 must contain:

26 (1) Information about each measure for an advisory vote of the
27 people and each ballot measure initiated by or referred to the voters
28 for their approval or rejection as required by RCW 29A.32.070;

29 (2) In even-numbered years, statements, if submitted, from
30 candidates for the office of president and vice president of the
31 United States, United States senator, United States representative,
32 governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer,
33 state auditor, attorney general, commissioner of public lands,
34 superintendent of public instruction, insurance commissioner, state
35 senator, state representative, justice of the supreme court, judge of
36 the court of appeals, or judge of the superior court. Candidates may
37 also submit campaign contact information and a photograph not more

1 than five years old in a format that the secretary of state
2 determines to be suitable for reproduction in the voters' pamphlet;

3 (3) In odd-numbered years, (~~if~~) for any office voted upon
4 statewide or any multicounty congressional or multicounty legislative
5 district that appears on the ballot due to a vacancy, (~~then~~)
6 statements and photographs for candidates for any vacant office
7 listed in subsection (2) of this section must appear;

8 (4) Contact information for the public disclosure commission
9 established under RCW 42.17A.100, including the following statement:
10 "For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and
11 local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov."
12 The statement must be placed in a prominent position, such as on the
13 cover or on the first two pages of the voters' pamphlet. The
14 secretary of state may substitute such language as is necessary for
15 accuracy and clarity and consistent with the intent of this section;

16 (5) Contact information for major political parties;

17 (6) A brief statement explaining the deletion and addition of
18 language for proposed measures under RCW 29A.32.080;

19 (7) A list of all student engagement hubs as designated under RCW
20 29A.40.180; and

21 (8) Any additional information pertaining to elections as may be
22 required by law or in the judgment of the secretary of state is
23 deemed informative to the voters.

24 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.32.060 and 2015 c 171 s 2 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 Committees shall write and submit arguments advocating the
27 approval or rejection of each statewide ballot issue and rebuttals of
28 those arguments. The secretary of state, the presiding officer of the
29 senate, and the presiding officer of the house of representatives
30 shall appoint the initial two members of each committee. In making
31 these committee appointments the secretary of state and presiding
32 officers of the senate and house of representatives shall consider
33 legislators, sponsors of initiatives and referendums, and other
34 interested groups known to advocate or oppose the ballot measure.
35 Committees must have the explanatory and fiscal impact statements
36 available before preparing their arguments.

37 The initial two members may select up to four additional members,
38 and the committee shall elect a chairperson. The remaining committee
39 member or members may fill vacancies through appointment.

1 After the committee submits its initial argument statements to
2 the secretary of state, the secretary of state shall transmit the
3 statements to the opposite committee. The opposite committee may then
4 prepare rebuttal arguments. Rebuttals may not interject new points.

5 The voters' pamphlet may contain text only argument statements
6 prepared according to this section. (~~Arguments may contain graphs
7 and charts supported by factual statistical data and pictures or
8 other illustrations. Cartoons~~) Graphs, charts, photographs,
9 cartoons, or caricatures are not permitted.

10 **Sec. 5.** RCW 29A.32.070 and 2016 c 83 s 1 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of
13 the voters' pamphlet published under RCW 29A.32.010. The secretary of
14 state shall print the pamphlet in clear, readable type on a size,
15 quality, and weight of paper that in the judgment of the secretary of
16 state best serves the voters. The pamphlet must contain a table of
17 contents. Measures and arguments must be printed in the order
18 specified by RCW 29A.72.290.

19 The secretary of state's name may not appear in the voters'
20 pamphlet in his or her official capacity if the secretary is a
21 candidate for office during the same year. His or her name may only
22 be included as part of the information normally included for
23 candidates.

24 The voters' pamphlet must provide the following information for
25 each statewide issue on the ballot except measures for an advisory
26 vote of the people whose requirements are provided in subsection (11)
27 of this section:

28 (1) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation
29 or number;

30 (2) The official ballot title of the measure;

31 (3) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the
32 law as it presently exists;

33 (4) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining the
34 effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;

35 (5) The fiscal impact statement prepared under RCW 29A.72.025;

36 (6) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure in
37 the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has been
38 passed by the legislature;

1 (7) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the measure
2 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;

3 (8) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the measure
4 together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing argument;

5 (9) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed by the
6 names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be
7 followed by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain
8 information on the ballot measure;

9 (10) The full text of the measure;

10 (11) (~~Two pages~~) Adequate space shall be provided in the
11 general election voters' pamphlet for each measure for an advisory
12 vote of the people under RCW 43.135.041 and shall consist of the
13 serial number assigned by the secretary of state under RCW
14 29A.72.040, the short description formulated by the attorney general
15 under RCW 29A.72.283, the tax increase's most up-to-date ten-year
16 cost projection, including a year-by-year breakdown, by the office of
17 financial management under RCW 43.135.031, and the names of the
18 legislators, and their contact information, and how they voted on the
19 increase upon final passage so they can provide information to, and
20 answer questions from, the public. For the purposes of this
21 subsection, "names of legislators, and their contact information"
22 includes each legislator's position (senator or representative),
23 first name, last name, party (~~affiliation (for example, Democrat or~~
24 ~~Republican), city or town they live in~~) preference, office phone
25 number, and office email address.

26 **Sec. 6.** RCW 29A.32.090 and 2009 c 222 s 3 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) (~~if~~) All statements, arguments, and photographs submitted
29 are subject to review and approval, and must conform to the criteria
30 in this section. A statement or photograph may be rejected, if in the
31 opinion of the secretary of state any argument or statement offered
32 for inclusion in the voters' pamphlet in support of or opposition to
33 a measure or candidate does not comply with the standards contained
34 in this section or administrative rules or contains obscene matter or
35 matter that is otherwise prohibited by law from distribution through
36 the mail(~~r~~). A person or committee that has submitted a statement
37 or photo rejected by the secretary may edit their statement or
38 petition the superior court of Thurston county for a judicial
39 determination that the photograph, argument, or statement (~~may be~~

1 ~~rejected~~) complies with the standards and is acceptable for
2 publication or edited to delete the matter. The court shall not enter
3 such an order unless it concludes that the matter is compliant, not
4 obscene, or not otherwise prohibited for distribution through the
5 mail.

6 (2) Any statements by a candidate are limited to:

7 (a) Those about the candidate himself or herself;

8 (b) Plans and goals for the future of the jurisdiction; and

9 (c) Direction on where to find more information about the
10 candidate.

11 (3) Candidate statements may not:

12 (a) Disparage others;

13 (b) Discuss the candidate's opponent;

14 (c) Ask for contributions;

15 (d) Make commercial solicitations; or

16 (e) Make obscene or otherwise inappropriate comments.

17 (4) Statements and arguments submitted in support of or
18 opposition to a measure may not:

19 (a) Disparage others;

20 (b) Discuss the measure's opponents;

21 (c) Ask for contributions;

22 (d) Make commercial solicitations; or

23 (e) Make obscene or otherwise inappropriate comments.

24 (5) A candidate's statement submitted for inclusion in the
25 voters' pamphlet shall not contain false or misleading statements
26 about the candidate's opponent. A false or misleading statement shall
27 be considered "libel or defamation per se" if the statement tends to
28 expose the candidate to hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy, or to
29 deprive him or her of the benefit of public confidence or social
30 intercourse, or to injure him or her in his or her business or
31 occupation. If a candidate believes his or her opponent has libeled
32 or defamed him or her, the candidate may commence an action under
33 subsection ((+3)) (6) of this section.

34 ((+3)) (6)(a) A person who believes that he or she may be
35 defamed by an argument or statement offered for inclusion in the
36 voters' pamphlet in support of or opposition to a measure or
37 candidate may petition the superior court of Thurston county for a
38 judicial determination that the argument or statement may be rejected
39 for publication or edited to delete the defamatory statement.

1 (b) The court shall not enter such an order unless it concludes
2 that the statement is untrue and that the petitioner has a very
3 substantial likelihood of prevailing in a defamation action.

4 (c) An action under this subsection (~~((3))~~) (6) must be filed and
5 served no later than the tenth day after the deadline for the
6 submission of the argument or statement to the secretary of state.

7 (d) If the secretary of state notifies a person named or
8 identified in an argument or statement of the contents of the
9 argument or statement within three days after the deadline for
10 submission to the secretary, then neither the state nor the secretary
11 is liable for damages resulting from publication of the argument or
12 statement unless the secretary publishes the argument or statement in
13 violation of an order entered under this section. Nothing in this
14 section creates a duty on the part of the secretary of state to
15 identify, locate, or notify the person.

16 (~~((4))~~) (7) Parties to a dispute under this section may agree to
17 resolve the dispute by rephrasing the argument or statement, even if
18 the deadline for submission to the secretary has elapsed, unless the
19 secretary determines that the process of publication is too far
20 advanced to permit the change. The secretary shall promptly provide
21 any such revision to any committee entitled to submit a rebuttal
22 argument. If that committee has not yet submitted its rebuttal, its
23 deadline to submit a rebuttal is extended by five days. If it has
24 submitted a rebuttal, it may revise it to address the change within
25 five days of the filing of the revised argument with the secretary.

26 (~~((5))~~) (8) In an action under this section the committee or
27 candidate must be named as a defendant, and may be served with
28 process by certified mail directed to the address contained in the
29 secretary's records for that party. The secretary of state shall be a
30 nominal party to an action brought under subsection (~~((3))~~) (6) of
31 this section, solely for the purpose of determining the content of
32 the voters' pamphlet. The superior court shall give such an action
33 priority on its calendar.

34 **Sec. 7.** RCW 29A.32.110 and 2003 c 111 s 811 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 All photographs of candidates submitted for publication must
37 conform to standards established by the secretary of state by rule.
38 No photograph may reveal clothing or insignia suggesting the holding

1 of a public office. No photograph may include hats, buttons, or
2 clothing showing words, insignia, or symbols.

3 **Sec. 8.** RCW 29A.32.121 and 2004 c 271 s 168 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The maximum number of words for statements submitted by
6 candidates is as follows: State representative, one hundred words;
7 state senator, judge of the superior court, judge of the court of
8 appeals, justice of the supreme court, and all state offices voted
9 upon throughout the state, except that of governor, two hundred
10 words; president and vice president, United States senator, United
11 States representative, and governor, three hundred words.

12 (2) Arguments written by committees under RCW 29A.32.060 may not
13 exceed two hundred fifty words in length.

14 (3) Rebuttal arguments written by committees may not exceed
15 seventy-five words in length.

16 (4) The secretary of state or county auditor shall allocate space
17 in the pamphlet based on the number of candidates or nominees for
18 each office.

19 **Sec. 9.** RCW 29A.32.210 and 2020 c 337 s 6 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 Before any primary or general election, or any special election
22 held under RCW 29A.04.321 or 29A.04.330, each county auditor shall
23 print and distribute a local voters' pamphlet. The pamphlet shall
24 provide information on all measures and candidates within that
25 (~~jurisdiction~~) county. The format of any local voters' pamphlet
26 shall, whenever applicable, comply with the provisions of this
27 chapter regarding the publication of the state candidates' and
28 voters' pamphlets.

29 **Sec. 10.** RCW 29A.32.220 and 2003 c 111 s 814 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) Not later than ninety days before the publication and
32 distribution of a local voters' pamphlet by a county, the county
33 auditor shall notify each city, town, or special taxing district
34 located (~~wholly~~) within that county that a pamphlet will be
35 produced.

36 (2) (~~If a~~) All voters' (~~pamphlet is~~) pamphlets published by
37 the county (~~for a primary or general election, the pamphlet shall be~~

1 ~~published for))~~ per RCW 29A.32.210 must include the elective offices
2 and ballot measures of the county and (~~(for))~~ the elective offices
3 and ballot measures of each unit of local government located
4 (~~(entirely))~~) within the county which will appear on the ballot at
5 that primary or election. (~~(However, the offices and measures of a~~
6 ~~first-class or code city shall not be included in the pamphlet if the~~
7 ~~city publishes and distributes its own voters' pamphlet for the~~
8 ~~primary or election for its offices and measures. The offices and~~
9 ~~measures of any other town or city are not required to appear in the~~
10 ~~county's pamphlet if the town or city is obligated by ordinance or~~
11 ~~charter to publish and distribute a voters' pamphlet for the primary~~
12 ~~or election for its offices and measures and it does so.))~~)

13 If the required appearance in a county's voters' pamphlet of the
14 offices or measures of a unit of local government would create undue
15 financial hardship for the unit of government, the legislative
16 authority of the unit may petition the legislative authority of the
17 county to waive this requirement. The legislative authority of the
18 county may provide such a waiver if it does so not later than sixty
19 days before the publication of the pamphlet and it finds that the
20 requirement would create such hardship.

21 (3) If a city, town, or district is located within more than one
22 county, (~~(the respective county auditors may enter into an interlocal~~
23 ~~agreement to permit the distribution of each county's local voters'~~
24 ~~pamphlet into those parts of the city, town, or district located~~
25 ~~outside of that county))~~ all appropriate information for that
26 jurisdiction must appear in the local voters' pamphlet for each of
27 the counties containing the jurisdiction. Arguments, candidate
28 statements, and photographs must be submitted to the county auditor
29 of the county that accepted any resolutions or candidate filings for
30 that jurisdiction. The auditor that receives this information shall
31 provide it to the other county auditors after reviewing and accepting
32 the submissions.

33 (4) (~~(If a first-class or code city authorizes the production and~~
34 ~~distribution of a local voters' pamphlet, the city clerk of that city~~
35 ~~shall notify any special taxing district located wholly within that~~
36 ~~city that a pamphlet will be produced. Notification shall be provided~~
37 ~~in the manner required or provided for in subsection (1) of this~~
38 ~~section.~~)

39 (5)) A unit of local government located within a county and the
40 county may enter into an interlocal agreement for the publication of

1 a voters' pamphlet for offices or measures not required by subsection
2 (2) of this section to appear in a county's pamphlet.

3 **Sec. 11.** RCW 29A.32.230 and 2003 c 111 s 815 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 ~~((The))~~ (1) The secretary of state in consultation with county
6 ~~((auditor or, if applicable, the city clerk of a first-class or code~~
7 ~~city))~~ auditors shall ~~((, in consultation with the participating~~
8 ~~jurisdictions,))~~ adopt ~~((and publish))~~ administrative rules necessary
9 to facilitate ~~((the provisions of any ordinance authorizing))~~
10 production of a local voters' pamphlet. ~~((Any amendment to such a~~
11 ~~rule shall also be adopted and published. Copies of the rules shall~~
12 ~~identify the date they were adopted or last amended and shall be made~~
13 ~~available to any person upon request. One copy of the rules adopted~~
14 ~~by a county auditor and one copy of any amended rules shall be~~
15 ~~submitted to the county legislative authority. One copy of the rules~~
16 ~~adopted by a city clerk and one copy of any amended rules shall be~~
17 ~~submitted to the city legislative authority.))~~ These rules shall
18 include but not be limited to the following:

19 ~~((1) Deadlines for decisions by cities, towns, or special taxing~~
20 ~~districts on being included in the pamphlet;~~

21 ~~(2))~~ (a) Limits on the length and deadlines for submission of
22 arguments for and against each measure;

23 ~~((3))~~ (b) The basis for rejection of any explanatory or
24 candidates' statement or argument deemed to be ((libelous or
25 otherwise inappropriate)) noncompliant with this section or
26 administrative rules adopted in accordance with this section.
27 Candidate statements must adhere to the following:

28 (i) Any statements by a candidate shall be limited to ((those)):

29 (A) Those about the candidate himself or herself;

30 (B) Plans and goals for the future of the jurisdiction;

31 (C) Directions on where to find more information about the
32 candidate.

33 (ii) Candidate statements may not:

34 (A) Disparage others;

35 (B) Discuss the candidate's opponent;

36 (C) Ask for contributions;

37 (D) Make commercial solicitations; or

38 (E) Make obscene or otherwise inappropriate comments;

1 ~~((4))~~ (c) Limits on the length and deadlines for submission of
2 candidates' statements;

3 ~~((5))~~ (d) An appeal process in the case of the rejection of any
4 statement or argument;

5 (e) Standards related to acceptable candidate photographs; and

6 (f) Standards related to statements for and against any measure.

7 (2) The county auditor shall adopt and publish local
8 administrative rules necessary to facilitate production of a local
9 voters' pamphlet. Any amendment to such a rule shall also be adopted
10 and published. Copies of the rules must identify the date they were
11 adopted or last amended and must be made available to any person upon
12 request.

13 **Sec. 12.** RCW 29A.32.241 and 2020 c 208 s 12 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The local voters' pamphlet shall include but not be limited
16 to the following:

17 (a) Appearing on the cover, the words "official local voters'
18 pamphlet," the name of the jurisdiction producing the pamphlet, and
19 the date of the election or primary;

20 (b) A list of jurisdictions that have measures or candidates in
21 the pamphlet;

22 (c) Information on how a person may register to vote and obtain a
23 ballot;

24 (d) Candidate statements and photographs;

25 (e) The text of each measure accompanied by an explanatory
26 statement prepared by the prosecuting attorney for any county measure
27 or by the attorney for the jurisdiction submitting the measure if
28 other than a county measure. All explanatory statements for city,
29 town, or district measures not approved by the attorney for the
30 jurisdiction submitting the measure shall be reviewed and approved by
31 the county prosecuting attorney or city attorney, when applicable,
32 before inclusion in the pamphlet;

33 ~~((e))~~ (f) The arguments for and against each measure submitted
34 by committees selected pursuant to RCW 29A.32.280; and

35 ~~((f))~~ (g) A list of all student engagement hubs in the county
36 as designated under RCW 29A.40.180 ~~(; and~~

37 ~~(g) For partisan primary elections, information on how to vote~~
38 ~~the applicable ballot format and an explanation that minor political~~

1 ~~party candidates and independent candidates will appear only on the~~
2 ~~general election ballot).~~

3 (2) The county auditor's name may not appear in the local voters'
4 pamphlet in his or her official capacity if the county auditor is a
5 candidate for office during the same year. His or her name may only
6 be included as part of the information normally included for
7 candidates.

8 **Sec. 13.** RCW 29A.32.250 and 2003 c 111 s 817 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 ~~((If the legislative authority of a county or first-class or code~~
11 ~~city provides for the inclusion of candidates in the local voters'~~
12 ~~pamphlet, the pamphlet)) Local voters' pamphlets shall include
13 ~~((the)) candidate statements ~~((from candidates and may also include))~~
14 that have been accepted by the county auditor and those candidates'
15 photographs.~~~~

16 **Sec. 14.** RCW 29A.32.260 and 2011 c 10 s 30 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 As soon as practicable before the primary, special election, or
19 general election, the county auditor ~~((, or if applicable, the city~~
20 ~~clerk of a first-class or code city, as appropriate,)) shall mail the
21 local voters' pamphlet to every residence in each jurisdiction ~~((that~~
22 ~~has included information)) within the county for all jurisdictions
23 participating in the associated primary or election for which
24 election information is included in the pamphlet. The county auditor
25 ~~((or city clerk, as appropriate,)) may choose to mail the pamphlet to
26 each registered voter in each jurisdiction that has ~~((included~~
27 ~~information in the pamphlet)) a primary or election, if in his or her
28 judgment, a more economical and effective distribution of the
29 pamphlet would result.~~~~~~~~

30 **Sec. 15.** RCW 29A.32.280 and 2015 c 146 s 3 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 For each measure from a unit of local government ~~((that is))~~
33 included in a local voters' pamphlet, the legislative authority of
34 that jurisdiction shall, not later than the resolution deadline,
35 formally appoint a committee to prepare arguments advocating voters'
36 approval of the measure and shall formally appoint a committee to
37 prepare arguments advocating voters' rejection of the measure. The

1 authority shall appoint persons that reside within the jurisdictional
2 boundaries known to favor the measure to serve on the committee
3 advocating approval and shall, whenever possible, appoint persons
4 known to oppose the measure to serve on the committee advocating
5 rejection, these committee members must reside within the
6 jurisdictional boundaries. Each committee shall have not more than
7 three members, however, a committee may seek the advice of any person
8 or persons. If the legislative authority of a unit of local
9 government fails to make such appointments by the prescribed
10 deadline, the county auditor shall (~~whenever possible make the~~
11 ~~appointments~~) issue a media release and publish information on their
12 election website announcing the opportunity to form committees and
13 provide statements. If the legislative authority fails to make
14 appointments, the auditor shall make appointments on a first-come,
15 first-served basis if qualified committee members contact the auditor
16 by the appropriate deadline. If no statement is produced the auditor
17 shall include a statement in the pamphlet stating that the district
18 failed to make appointments and there are no statements for that
19 measure.

20 **Sec. 16.** RCW 29A.72.025 and 2009 c 415 s 7 are each amended to
21 read as follows:

22 The office of financial management, in consultation with the
23 secretary of state, the attorney general, and any other appropriate
24 state or local agency, shall prepare a fiscal impact statement for
25 each of the following state ballot measures: (1) An initiative to the
26 people that is certified to the ballot; (2) an initiative to the
27 legislature that will appear on the ballot; (3) an alternative
28 measure appearing on the ballot that the legislature proposes to an
29 initiative to the legislature; (4) a referendum bill referred to
30 voters by the legislature; and (5) a referendum measure appearing on
31 the ballot. Fiscal impact statements must be written in clear and
32 concise language, avoid legal and technical terms when possible, and
33 be filed with the secretary of state no later than the (~~tenth~~) 15th
34 day of (~~August~~) July. Fiscal impact statements may include easily
35 understood graphics.

36 A fiscal impact statement must describe any projected increase or
37 decrease in revenues, costs, expenditures, or indebtedness that the
38 state or local governments will experience if the ballot measure were
39 approved by state voters. Where appropriate, a fiscal impact

1 statement may include both estimated dollar amounts and a description
2 placing the estimated dollar amounts into context. A fiscal impact
3 statement must include both a summary of not to exceed one hundred
4 words and a more detailed statement that includes the assumptions
5 that were made to develop the fiscal impacts.

6 Fiscal impact statements must be available online from the
7 secretary of state's website and included in the state voters'
8 pamphlet. Additional information may be posted on the website of the
9 office of financial management.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** This act takes effect January 1, 2022.

--- END ---