
HOUSE BILL 1966

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Alexander and Pedersen; by request of Secretary of State

Read first time 02/25/13. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing costs and inefficiencies in elections;
2 and amending RCW 29A.52.220, 29A.72.010, 29A.72.070, 29A.72.090, and
3 43.135.041.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.52.220 and 2005 c 153 s 10 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) No primary may be held for any single position in any ((~~city,~~
8 ~~town, district, or district court, as required by RCW 29A.52.210~~))
9 nonpartisan office, if, after the last day allowed for candidates to
10 withdraw, there are no more than two candidates filed for the position.
11 The county auditor shall, as soon as possible, notify all the
12 candidates so affected that the office for which they filed will not
13 appear on the primary ballot.

14 (2) No primary may be held for nonpartisan offices in any first-
15 class city if the city:

16 (a) Is a qualifying city that has been certified to participate in
17 the pilot project authorized by RCW 29A.53.020; and

18 (b) Is conducting an election using the instant runoff voting
19 method for the pilot project authorized by RCW 29A.53.020.

1 (c) This subsection (2) expires July 1, 2013.

2 (3) No primary may be held for the office of commissioner of a park
3 and recreation district or for the office of cemetery district
4 commissioner.

5 (4) Names of candidates for offices that do not appear on the
6 primary ballot shall be printed upon the general election ballot in the
7 manner specified by RCW 29A.36.131.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.72.010 and 2003 c 111 s 1802 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 If any legal voter of the state, either individually or on behalf
11 of an organization, desires to petition the legislature to enact a
12 proposed measure, or submit a proposed initiative measure to the
13 people, or order that a referendum of all or part of any act, bill, or
14 law, passed by the legislature be submitted to the people, he or she
15 shall file with the secretary of state:

16 (1) A legible copy of the measure proposed, or the act or part of
17 such act on which a referendum is desired~~((, accompanied by an))~~;

18 (2) A signed affidavit, or electronic submission, that the sponsor
19 is a ~~((legal))~~ registered voter; and

20 (3) A filing fee prescribed under RCW 43.07.120.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.72.070 and 2003 c 111 s 1808 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 Upon the filing of ~~((the))~~ a ballot title and summary for a state
24 initiative or referendum measure in the office of secretary of state,
25 the secretary of state shall notify ~~((by telephone and by mail, and, if~~
26 ~~requested, by other electronic means,))~~ the person proposing the
27 measure, ~~((the prime sponsor of a referendum bill or alternative to an~~
28 ~~initiative to the legislature, the chief clerk of the house of~~
29 ~~representatives, the secretary of the senate,))~~ and any other
30 individuals who have made written request for such notification of the
31 exact language of the ballot title and summary.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.72.090 and 2003 c 111 s 1810 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 When the ballot title and summary are finally established, the
35 secretary of state shall file the instrument establishing it with the

1 proposed measure and transmit a copy thereof (~~(by mail)~~) to the person
2 proposing the measure, (~~(the chief clerk of the house of~~
3 ~~representatives, the secretary of the senate,)~~) and to any other
4 individuals who have made written request for such notification.
5 Thereafter such ballot title shall be the title of the measure in all
6 petitions, ballots, and other proceedings in relation thereto. The
7 summary shall appear on all petitions directly following the ballot
8 title.

9 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.135.041 and 2010 c 4 s 3 are each amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (1)(a) After July 1, 2011, if legislative action raising taxes as
12 defined by RCW 43.135.035 is blocked from a public vote or is not
13 referred to the people by a referendum petition found to be sufficient
14 under RCW 29A.72.250, a measure for an advisory vote of the people is
15 required and shall be placed on the next general election ballot under
16 chapter 1, Laws of 2008.

17 (b) If legislative action raising taxes enacted after July 1, 2011,
18 involves more than one revenue source, each tax being increased shall
19 be subject to a separate measure for an advisory vote of the people
20 under the requirements of chapter 1, Laws of 2008.

21 (2) No later than the first of (~~August~~) July, the attorney
22 general will send written notice to the secretary of state of any tax
23 increase that is subject to an advisory vote of the people, under the
24 provisions and exceptions provided by chapter 1, Laws of 2008. Within
25 five days of receiving such written notice from the attorney general,
26 the secretary of state will assign a serial number for a measure for an
27 advisory vote of the people and transmit one copy of the measure
28 bearing its serial number to the attorney general as required by RCW
29 29A.72.040, for any tax increase identified by the attorney general as
30 needing an advisory vote of the people for that year's general election
31 ballot. Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays are not counted in
32 calculating the time limits in this subsection.

33 (3) For the purposes of this section, "blocked from a public vote"
34 includes adding an emergency clause to a bill increasing taxes, bonding
35 or contractually obligating taxes, or otherwise preventing a referendum
36 on a bill increasing taxes.

1 (4) If legislative action raising taxes is referred to the people
2 by the legislature or is included in an initiative to the people found
3 to be sufficient under RCW 29A.72.250, then the tax increase is exempt
4 from an advisory vote of the people under chapter 1, Laws of 2008.

--- END ---