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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5715**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2015 Regular Session**

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

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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