
SENATE BILL 6174

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senator Ericksen

Prefiled 01/07/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to ballot titles for initiatives to the people;
2 amending RCW 29A.72.050; creating a new section; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

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

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

20 (2) For an initiative to the people, or for an initiative to the
21 legislature for which the legislature has not proposed an

1 alternative, the ballot title must be displayed on the ballot
2 substantially as follows:

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

6 Yes
7 No

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

11 "Initiative Measure Nos. . . . and . . .B concern (statement
12 of subject).

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

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

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

17 Yes
18 No

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

21 Measure No.
22 or
23 Measure No.

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

27 "The legislature has passed Bill No. . . . concerning
28 (statement of subject). This bill would (concise
29 description). Should this bill be:

30 Approved
31 Rejected

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

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

8 Approved
9 Rejected

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

18 The attorney general shall specify the statement of subject and
19 concise description for an initiative to the people, an initiative to
20 the legislature, and a referendum measure. The statement of subject
21 and concise description as so provided must be included as part of
22 the ballot title unless changed on appeal. Any initiative to the
23 people that imposes any tax, fee, or charge, from any source, in any
24 amount, and for any purpose, must be given a ballot title describing
25 the initiative as a measure that increases taxes.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act applies to all initiatives to the
27 people filed with the secretary of state beginning January 1, 2016.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
29 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
30 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
31 effect immediately.

--- END ---