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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5256**

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**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1993 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Sutherland, McCaslin and Erwin)

Read first time 02/26/93.

1 AN ACT Relating to annexation by cities and towns; amending RCW  
2 35.13.350 and 35A.14.550; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The decision to annex territory to a city or  
5 town is a political decision of the affected persons and the annexing  
6 city or town. It is the policy of this state to prohibit the use of  
7 public facilities to influence political campaigns and ballot  
8 propositions. It is the intent of the legislature that this  
9 prohibition be extended to prohibit the use of public facilities,  
10 including physical resources, employees, and the granting of reduced  
11 charges for services, to influence affected persons in deciding how to  
12 vote or whether to sign a petition to annex territory to a city or  
13 town.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 35.13.350 and 1989 c 351 s 8 are each amended to read  
15 as follows:

16 A city or town can provide factual ((public)) information to the  
17 public on the effects of a pending annexation proposed for the city or  
18 town. A city or town shall not use any of its public facilities,

1 including physical resources, or employees who are being compensated,  
2 to advocate for or against a proposed annexation whether such  
3 annexation is by the election method as provided in RCW 35.13.015  
4 through 35.13.110 or the petition method as provided in RCW 35.13.125  
5 through 35.13.160. A city or town may not grant reduced utility or  
6 other charges to individual property owners as a condition of agreeing  
7 to a proposed annexation. A city or town may only grant such reduced  
8 rates or charges for those residents within the entire area proposed  
9 for such annexation.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 35A.14.550 and 1989 c 351 s 9 are each amended to read  
11 as follows:

12 A code city can provide factual ((public)) information to the  
13 public on the effects of pending annexation proposed for the code city.  
14 A code city shall not use any of its public facilities, including  
15 physical resources, or employees who are being compensated, to advocate  
16 for or against a proposed annexation whether such annexation is by the  
17 election method as provided in RCW 35A.14.015 through 35A.14.110 or the  
18 petition method as provided in RCW 35A.14.120 through 35A.14.150. A  
19 code city may not grant reduced utility or other charges to individual  
20 property owners as a condition of agreeing to a proposed annexation.  
21 A code city may only grant such reduced rates or charges for those  
22 residents within the entire area proposed for such annexation.

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