

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1553

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Government Operations, March 22, 1995

Title: An act relating to elections.

Brief Description: Concerning the proper form of certain ballot titles.

Sponsors: Representative L. Thomas; by request of Attorney General.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations: 3/22/95 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Sheldon, Vice Chair; Hale, McCaslin and Winsley.

Staff: Rod McAulay (786-7754)

Background: When a proposed constitutional amendment or other measure is submitted to a vote of the people, the Attorney General is required to prepare a concise statement of not more than 20 words, posed as a question, containing the essential features of the measure. This concise statement constitutes the ballot title.

Referendum bills are bills enacted and sent to the people by the Legislature. When a petition has been filed against a state legislative enactment, it is called a referendum measure. In 1993, the Legislature passed a measure that increased the number of words allowed in the concise statement to 25 for referendum measures filed on state legislative enactments.

Summary of Bill: The number of words allowed in the concise statement for constitutional amendments, initiatives, and referendum bills is increased to 25.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: No one.