
SENATE BILL 6448

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 Regular Session

By Senators Frockt, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, and Kline

Read first time 01/23/12. Referred to Committee on Government Operations, Tribal Relations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to fiscal impact statements in the voters'
2 pamphlet; and amending RCW 29A.32.070 and 29A.72.025.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 29A.32.070 and 2009 c 415 s 5 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The secretary of state shall determine the format and layout of
7 the voters' pamphlet published under RCW 29A.32.010. The secretary of
8 state shall print the pamphlet in clear, readable type on a size,
9 quality, and weight of paper that in the judgment of the secretary of
10 state best serves the voters. The pamphlet must contain a table of
11 contents. Measures and arguments must be printed in the order
12 specified by RCW 29A.72.290.

13 (2) The voters' pamphlet must provide the following information for
14 each statewide issue on the ballot except measures for an advisory vote
15 of the people whose requirements are provided in subsection ~~((+1+))~~

16 (3) of this section:

17 ~~((+1+))~~ (a) The legal identification of the measure by serial
18 designation or number;

19 ~~((+2+))~~ (b) The official ballot title of the measure;

1 ~~((+3))~~ (c) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining
2 the law as it presently exists;

3 ~~((+4))~~ (d) A statement prepared by the attorney general explaining
4 the effect of the proposed measure if it becomes law;

5 ~~((+5))~~ (e) The fiscal impact statement prepared under RCW
6 29A.72.025;

7 ~~((+6))~~ (f) The total number of votes cast for and against the
8 measure in the senate and house of representatives, if the measure has
9 been passed by the legislature;

10 ~~((+7))~~ (g) An argument advocating the voters' approval of the
11 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing
12 argument;

13 ~~((+8))~~ (h) An argument advocating the voters' rejection of the
14 measure together with any statement in rebuttal of the opposing
15 argument;

16 ~~((+9))~~ (i) Each argument or rebuttal statement must be followed by
17 the names of the committee members who submitted them, and may be
18 followed by a telephone number that citizens may call to obtain
19 information on the ballot measure; and

20 ~~((+10))~~ (j) The full text of the measure~~((+))~~.

21 ~~((+11))~~ (3)(a) Two pages shall be provided in the general election
22 voters' pamphlet for each measure for an advisory vote of the people
23 under RCW 43.135.041~~_,~~ and shall consist of:

24 (i) The serial number assigned by the secretary of state under RCW
25 29A.72.040~~((+))~~;

26 (ii) The short description formulated by the attorney general under
27 RCW 29A.72.283~~((+))~~;

28 (iii) The tax increase's most up-to-date ten-year cost projection,
29 including a year-by-year breakdown, by the office of financial
30 management under RCW 43.135.031~~((+))~~; and

31 (iv) The names of the legislators, and their contact information,
32 and how they voted on the tax increase upon final passage so they can
33 provide information to, and answer questions from, the public.

34 (b) For the purposes of this subsection (3), "names of the
35 legislators, and their contact information" includes each legislator's
36 position (senator or representative), first name, last name, party
37 affiliation (for example, Democrat or Republican), city or town they
38 live in, office phone number, and office e-mail address.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.72.025 and 2009 c 415 s 7 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The office of financial management, in consultation with the
4 secretary of state, the attorney general, and any other appropriate
5 state or local agency, shall prepare a fiscal impact statement for each
6 of the following state ballot measures: ~~((1))~~

7 (a) An initiative to the people that is certified to the ballot;
8 ~~((2))~~

9 (b) An initiative to the legislature that will appear on the
10 ballot; ~~((3))~~

11 (c) An alternative measure appearing on the ballot that the
12 legislature proposes to an initiative to the legislature; ~~((4))~~

13 (d) A referendum bill referred to voters by the legislature; and
14 ~~((5))~~

15 (e) A referendum measure appearing on the ballot.

16 (2) Fiscal impact statements must:

17 (a) Be written in clear and concise language~~((7))~~;

18 (b) Avoid legal and technical terms, when possible~~((7 and))~~;

19 (c) Be filed with the secretary of state no later than the tenth
20 day of August~~((7. Fiscal impact statements may))~~;

21 (d) Where appropriate, include easily understood graphics~~((7~~
22 ~~A fiscal impact statement must))~~;

23 (e) Describe any projected increase or decrease in revenues, costs,
24 expenditures, or indebtedness that the state or local governments will
25 experience if the ballot measure were approved by state voters~~((7))~~,
26 including the effect that any decrease in revenues may have upon an
27 increase in demand for government services that is attributable to a
28 recession;

29 (f) Where appropriate, ~~((a fiscal impact statement may))~~ include
30 both estimated dollar amounts and a description placing the estimated
31 dollar amounts into context~~((7. A fiscal impact statement must))~~;

32 (g) Include both a summary of not to exceed one hundred words and
33 a more detailed statement that includes the assumptions that were made
34 to develop the fiscal impacts~~((7~~
35 ~~Fiscal impact statements must))~~; and

36 (h) Be available online from the secretary of state's web site and
37 included in the state voters' pamphlet. Additional information may be
38 posted on the web site of the office of financial management.

1 (3) As used in this section, "recession" means a decline in the
2 gross state product for at least six months.

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