

CHAPTER 130.

[H. B. 406.]

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

AN ACT to facilitate the operation of the provisions of Section 1 of Article II of the constitution relating to the initiative and referendum and amending section 26 of Chapter 138 of the Laws of 1913.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. That section 26 of chapter 138 of the Laws of 1913, (section 5422 of Remington's Compiled Statutes) be amended to read as follows:

Section 26. The person, persons, committee or organization filing any initiative or referendum petition proposing a measure, or ordering a referendum for submission to the people, and any other citizen or committee or organization of citizens shall have the right at the time of filing such petition or within ten days after such petition has been accepted and filed, to file with the secretary of state for printing and distribution arguments advocating the proposed measure or referendum, and any citizen or committee or organization of citizens may, within twenty days after such petition has been accepted and filed, file an argument in opposition to such measure or referendum for printing and distribution, *Provided*, That not more than two separate arguments advocating such measure of referendum and not more than three separate arguments in opposition thereto shall be printed by and distributed at the expense of the state. If more than two arguments advocating or more than three arguments in opposition to such measure or referendum are filed, the secretary of state shall forthwith notify the persons filing the arguments advocating or in opposition to such measure or referendum of that fact, and if the persons filing such arguments do not agree

Amends
§ 5422 Rem.
Comp.Stat.

Proponents
of measure
may file
arguments
with secre-
tary of state.

Opposition
argument.

Printed and
distributed
at state
expense.

among themselves within thirty days after the acceptance and filing of such petition as to which of said arguments shall be printed by the state, the secretary of state shall select for printing, binding and distribution, in addition to the argument advocating such measure filed by the persons proposing the same, one additional argument, and shall select three arguments in opposition to such measure, to be printed by the state. In making such selections the secretary of state shall select the argument advocating and the three arguments in opposition to the measure which he shall consider the strongest, taking into account the arguments proposed and the form in which they are presented. If in the opinion of the secretary of state any argument for or against a measure offered for filing contain any obscene, vulgar, profane, scandalous, libelous, defamatory or treasonable matter or any language tending to provoke crime or a breach of the peace, or any language or matter the circulation of which through the mails is prohibited by any act of congress, the secretary of state shall refuse to file such argument: *Provided*, That the person submitting such argument for filing may appeal to a board of censors consisting of the governor, the attorney general and the superintendent of public instruction, and the decision of a majority of such board shall be final. Each such argument either for or against the measure shall not exceed two pages of the pamphlet hereinafter required to be published by the state and shall contain the serial designation and number of the measure and state the name of the person or organization advancing it. The person or organization filing such argument shall at the time of filing the same deposit with the secretary of state sufficient money, the amount to be estimated by the secretary of state, to cover the increased cost of paper for, the printing and binding of such argument. In the

Selection of arguments by secretary of state.

Refusal to file.

Board of censors.

Deposit to cover cost.

Measures initiated by petition to legislature.

case of measures initiated by petition and submitted to the legislature and rejected by the legislature either with or without alternative measures proposed by the legislature, and alternatives passed by the legislature in lieu thereof, the person, committee or organization proposing the measure may likewise within six months after the adjournment of the session of the legislature at which such measure was submitted file an argument in support of the initiative measure, and may file an argument against the alternative measure, if any, and other citizens within six months after the adjournment of such session of the legislature may file arguments in support of or against such initiative measure or alternative measure and the legislature may by resolution file an argument in support of the alternative measure. But only two arguments in support of each measure, in addition to the argument filed by the proponents of the measure, and by the legislature, shall be printed by and distributed at the expense of the state, and if the persons filing arguments do not agree among themselves as to what arguments shall be printed the secretary of state shall select arguments to be printed. Arguments for and against bills passed and referred to the people by the legislature, including amendments to the constitution proposed by the legislature, shall be filed, within six months after the adjournment of the session of the legislature at which such bills were passed, or constitutional amendments proposed, and selected and printed in the same manner.

Arguments.

Two arguments for each measure.

Bills passed and referred to people by legislature and constitutional amendments.

Passed the House March 11, 1929.

Passed the Senate March 13, 1929.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1929.