

CHAPTER 143

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2361]

VOTERS' PAMPHLETS--

REBUTTAL STATEMENTS

AN ACT Relating to the voters' pamphlet; amending section 29.81.010, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.81.010; amending section 29.81.020, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.81.020; amending section 29.81.030, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.81.030; amending section 29.81.040, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 4, chapter 145, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 29.81.040; amending section 29.81.050, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.81.050; and adding new sections to chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and chapter 29.81 RCW.

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

Section 1. Section 29.81.010, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.81.010 are each amended to read as follows:

The voters' pamphlet shall contain as to each state measure to be voted upon, the following in the order set forth in this section:

(1) Upon the top portion of the first two opposing pages relating to said measure and not exceeding one-third of the total printing area shall appear:

(a) The legal identification of the measure by serial designation and number;

(b) The official ballot title of the measure;

(c) A brief statement explaining the law as it presently exists;

(d) A brief statement explaining the effect of the proposed measure should it be approved into law;

(e) The total number of votes cast for and against the measure in both the state senate and house of representatives if the measure has been passed by the legislature;

(f) A heavy double ruled line across both pages to clearly set apart the above items from the remaining text.

(2) Upon the lower portion of the left page of the two facing pages shall appear an argument advocating the voters' approval of the measure together with any rebuttal statement of the opposing argument as provided in RCW 29.81.030, 29.81.040, or 29.81.050.

(3) Upon the lower portion of the right hand page of the two facing pages shall appear an argument advocating the voters' rejection of the measure together with any rebuttal statement of the opposing argument as provided in RCW 29.81.030, 29.81.040, or 29.81.050.

(4) Following each argument or rebuttal statement each member of the committee advocating for or against a measure shall be listed

by name and address to the end that the public shall be fully apprised of the advocate's identity.

(5) At the conclusion of the pamphlet the full text of each of the measures shall appear. The text of the proposed constitutional amendments shall be set forth in the form provided for in RCW 29.81.080.

Sec. 2. Section 29.81.020, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.81.020 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The attorney general shall prepare the explanatory statements required to be presented on the top portion of the two facing pages relating to each measure. Such statements shall be prepared in clear and concise language and shall avoid the use of legal and other technical terms insofar as possible. Any person dissatisfied with the explanatory statement so prepared may at any time within ten days from the filing thereof in the office of the secretary of state appeal to the superior court of Thurston county by petition setting forth the measure, the explanatory statement prepared by the attorney general, and his objection thereto and praying for the amendment thereof. A copy of the petition and a notice of such appeal shall be served on the secretary of state and the attorney general. The court shall, upon filing of the petition, examine the measure, the explanatory statement, and the objections thereto and may hear argument thereon and shall, as soon as possible, render its decision and certify to and file with the secretary of state such explanatory statement as it determines will meet the requirements of this chapter. The decision of the superior court shall be final and its explanatory statement shall be the established explanatory statement. Such appeal shall be heard without costs to either party.

(2) Arguments and rebuttal statements advocating the voters' approval or rejection of any measure shall be prepared and submitted for printing by the committees created pursuant to RCW 29.81.030, 29.81.040 and 29.81.050. Such arguments and rebuttal statements shall be the (~~official~~) arguments and rebuttal statements and no other arguments or rebuttal statements shall appear in the pamphlet as to such measure. Arguments may contain graphs and charts, supported by factual statistical data and pictures or other illustrations, but cartoons or caricatures shall not be permitted.

Sec. 3. Section 29.81.030, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.81.030 are each amended to read as follows:

Arguments advocating voters' approval of any proposed constitutional amendment (~~(7)~~) or referendum bill (~~(7 or referendum measure)~~) shall be composed and submitted for printing by a committee created as follows: The presiding officer of the state senate shall appoint one state senator known to favor the measure and the

presiding officer of the house of representatives shall appoint one state representative known to favor the measure. The two persons so appointed shall appoint a third member to the committee who may or may not be a member of the legislature. If no member of the legislature can be enlisted to serve on such committee, then a committee composed of the secretary of state, the presiding officer of the senate, and the presiding officer of the house of representatives shall appoint any persons who are, in their judgement, qualified to serve in such capacity.

Sec. 4. Section 29.81.040, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 4, chapter 145, Laws of 1971 ex. sess. and RCW 29.81.040 are each amended to read as follows:

Arguments advocating voters' rejection of any proposed constitutional amendment or referendum bill passed by the legislature and referred to the people for final decision and rebuttal statements of arguments advocating approval of such measures shall be composed and submitted for printing by a committee created as follows: The presiding officer of the state senate shall appoint one state senator and presiding officer of the house of representatives shall appoint one state representative. Whenever possible, the two persons so appointed shall be known to have opposed the measure and they shall appoint a third member to the committee who may or may not be a member of the legislature. If no member of the legislature can be enlisted to serve on such committee, then a committee composed of the secretary of state, the presiding officer of the house and the presiding officer of the senate shall ~~((be empowered to))~~ appoint any persons who are, in their judgment, qualified to serve in such capacity.

Sec. 5. Section 29.81.050, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and RCW 29.81.050 are each amended to read as follows:

Arguments advocating voters' ~~((rejection of any act passed by the legislature and referred to the people by referendum petition and arguments both for and against))~~ approval of any initiative measure or any act passed by the legislature and referred to the people by referendum petition and rebuttal statements of arguments advocating rejection of such measures shall be composed and submitted for printing by ~~((committees))~~ a committee created as follows:

~~((For arguments favoring any such measures,))~~ The presiding officer of the state senate, the presiding officer of the house of representatives, and the secretary of state shall together appoint two persons known to favor the measure to serve on the committee. The two persons so appointed shall appoint a third person to the committee.

Arguments advocating voters' rejection of any initiative measure or any act passed by the legislature and referred to the

people by referendum petition and rebuttal statements of arguments advocating approval of such measures shall be composed and submitted for printing by a committee created as follows:

~~((12) For arguments against any such measures,))~~ The presiding officer of the state senate, the presiding officer of the house of representatives, and the secretary of state shall together appoint two persons to serve on the committee. Whenever possible, the two persons so appointed shall be known to have opposed the measure. The two persons so appointed shall appoint a third person to the committee.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. There is added to chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and to chapter 29.81.RCW a new section to read as follows:

The committees appointed to compose the arguments to appear in the voters' pamphlet pursuant to RCW 29.81.030 and 29.81.040 shall submit such arguments, not to exceed two hundred fifty words in length, to the secretary of state no later than the first day of June preceding the election at which the measures will appear. In the event that a committee appointed pursuant to RCW 29.81.030 or 29.81.040 fails to submit its argument prior to the first day of June preceding the election, the secretary of state, the presiding officer of the house of representatives, and the presiding officer of the state senate shall appoint any persons who are, in their judgment, qualified to compose such an argument. Any additional committee so appointed shall have until the last day of June preceding the election on the measure to compose and submit the appropriate argument.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. There is added to chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and to chapter 29.81 RCW a new section to read as follows:

On or before the first day of July preceding the election, the secretary of state shall transmit each argument submitted advocating approval of a constitutional amendment or referendum bill to the committee appointed to compose the argument against the same measure and transmit each argument submitted advocating rejection of a constitutional amendment or referendum bill to the committee appointed to compose the argument in favor of the same measure. The committees concerned may submit rebuttal arguments, not to exceed seventy-five words in length, addressing statements made by the opposing committee, but interjecting no new issue no later than the fifteenth day of July preceding the election at which the measure is to appear.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. There is added to chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and to chapter 29.81 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The committees appointed to compose the arguments to appear in the voters' pamphlet pursuant to RCW 29.81.050 shall submit such arguments, not to exceed two hundred fifty words in length, no later

than the last day of July preceding the election at which the measures will appear.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. There is added to chapter 9, Laws of 1965 and to chapter 29.81 RCW a new section to read as follows:

On or before the first day of August preceding the election, the secretary of state shall transmit each argument submitted advocating approval of an initiative measure or any act passed by the legislature and referred to the people by referendum petition to the committee appointed to compose the argument against the same measure and transmit each argument submitted advocating rejection of an initiative measure or any act passed by the legislature and referred to the people by referendum petition to the committee appointed to compose the argument in favor of the measure. The committees concerned may submit rebuttal arguments not to exceed seventy-five words in length addressing statements made by the opposing committee, but interjecting no new issue no later than the fifteenth day of August preceding the election at which the measure is to appear.

Passed the Senate April 14, 1973.

Passed the House April 14, 1973.

Approved by the Governor April 24, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 25, 1973.

CHAPTER 144

[Senate Bill No. 2452]

UNFIT BUILDINGS--ASSESSMENTS--INTEREST

CHARGE--LIEN PRIORITY

AN ACT Relating to housing and unfit dwellings; and amending section 35.80.030, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 3, chapter 127, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 35.80.030.

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

Section 1. Section 35.80.030, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 3, chapter 127, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 35.80.030 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Whenever the local governing body of a municipality finds that one or more conditions of the character described in RCW 35.80.010 exist within its territorial limits, said governing body may adopt ordinances relating to such dwellings, buildings, or structures. Such ordinances may provide for the following:

(a) That an "improvement board" or officer be designated or appointed to exercise the powers assigned to such board or officer by the ordinance as specified herein. Said board or officer may be an existing municipal board or officer in the municipality, or may be a