

vehicle fund to be paid out and expended in the manner provided by law, for the biennium ending March 31, 1953.

Emergency.

SEC. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 24, 1953.

Passed the Senate March 10, 1953.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1953.

CHAPTER 242.

[H. B. 347.]

BALLOT TITLES.

AN ACT relating to elections, amending sections 29.27.060 and 29.79.040, RCW, and amending chapter 29.27, RCW, by adding two new sections thereto.

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

Amendment.

SECTION 1. Section 29.27.060, RCW, as derived from section 1, chapter 135, Laws of 1913, is amended to read as follows:

State-wide elections; statement of proposition.

When a proposed constitution or constitutional amendment or other question is to be submitted to the people of the state for state-wide popular vote, the attorney general shall prepare a concise statement not exceeding seventy-five words containing the essential features thereof expressed in such a manner as to clearly identify the proposition to be voted upon.

County or municipal elections; advertisement of proposition.

Questions to be submitted to the people of a county or municipality shall also be advertised as provided for nominees for office, and in such cases there shall also be printed on the ballot a concise statement not exceeding seventy-five words containing the essential features thereof expressed in such a

manner as to clearly identify the proposition to be voted upon, which statement shall be prepared by the city attorney for the city, and by the prosecuting attorney for the county or any other political subdivision of the state, other than cities, situated in the county.

Statement of proposition.

In addition to such a statement, the official preparing the statement, whether the attorney general, city attorney, or prosecuting attorney, as the case may be, shall also prepare a caption, not to exceed five words in length, to permit the voters readily to identify the proposition and distinguish it from other propositions on the ballot. This caption shall be placed on the ballot immediately before the statement, and shall be printed in heavy black type in such a manner as to be readable at a glance. The caption and statement together shall constitute the ballot title. The secretary of state shall certify to the county auditors the ballot title for a proposed constitution, constitutional amendment or other state-wide question at the same time and in the same manner as the ballot titles to initiatives and referendums.

Captions.

Ballot title; defined.

Certification.

SEC. 2. Section 29.79.040, RCW, as derived from section 2, chapter 138, Laws of 1913, is amended to read as follows:

Amendment.

Within ten days after the receipt of an initiative or referendum measure the attorney general shall formulate therefor and transmit to the secretary of state a statement of not to exceed one hundred words, bearing the serial number of the measure. The statement may be distinct from the legislative title of the measure, and shall express, and give a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the measure; it shall not be intentionally an argument, nor likely to create prejudice, either for or against the measure. In addition to such statement, the attorney general shall also prepare a caption, not to exceed five words in length, to permit the voters readily to identify the

Initiative and referendum; statement of proposition.

Caption.

Ballot title defined. initiative or referendum measure and distinguish it from other questions on the ballot. This caption and the statement together shall constitute the ballot title. The ballot title formulated by the attorney general shall be the ballot title of the measure unless changed on appeal.

New section. SEC. 3. Chapter 29.27, RCW, is amended by adding a new section thereto reading as follows:

Notice of ballot title language. Upon the filing of a ballot title as defined in RCW 29.27.060, the secretary of state, in event it is a state question, or the county auditor in the event it is a county or other local question, shall forthwith notify the persons proposing the measure of the exact language of the ballot title.

New section. SEC. 4. Chapter 29.27, RCW, is amended by adding a new section thereto reading as follows:

Appeals; petition. If the persons filing any state or local question covered by RCW 29.27.060 are dissatisfied with the ballot title formulated by the attorney general, city attorney, or prosecuting attorney preparing the same, they may at any time within ten days from the time of the filing of the ballot title appeal to the superior court of Thurston county if it is a state-wide question, or to the superior court of the county where the question is to appear on the ballot, if it is a county or local question, by petition setting forth the measure, the ballot title objected to, their objections to the ballot title and praying for amendment thereof. The time of the filing of the ballot title, as used herein in determining the time for appeal, is the time the ballot title is first filed with the secretary of state, if concerning a state-wide question, or the county auditor, if a local question, the secretary of state or the county officer being herein called the "filing officer."

Service. A copy of the petition on appeal together with a notice that an appeal has been taken shall be served upon the filing officer and the official preparing the

ballot title. Upon the filing of the petition on appeal, the court shall forthwith, or at the time to which a hearing may be adjourned by consent of the appellants, examine the proposed measure, the ballot title filed and the objections thereto and may hear arguments thereon, and shall as soon as possible render its decision and certify to and file with the filing officer such ballot title as it determines will meet the requirements of this chapter. The decision of the superior court shall be final, and the title so certified shall be the established ballot title. Such appeal shall be heard without cost to either party.

Hearing.

Decision.

Costs.

Passed the House March 3, 1953.

Passed the Senate March 10, 1953.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1953.

CHAPTER 243.

[H. B. 348.]

PORT DISTRICTS—LEASING OF PROPERTY.

AN ACT relating to the leasing of property by port districts, amending section 53.08.080, RCW, and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 53.08.080, RCW, as derived from section 4, chapter 92, Laws of 1911, as last amended by section 2, chapter 166, Laws of 1943, is amended to read as follows:

Amendment.

A district may lease all lands, wharves, docks, and property owned and controlled by it, upon such terms as the port commission deems proper: *Provided*, That no lease shall be for a period longer than thirty years, and each lease shall be secured by a bond, with surety satisfactory to the port commis-

Authorized.

30 year
maximum.

Bond.