
HOUSE BILL 2887

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Vick, Walsh, and Hoff

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting local governments from suing over
2 statewide ballot measures; and amending RCW 7.24.010 and 7.40.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 7.24.010 and 1937 c 14 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 ~~((Courts))~~ (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this
7 section, courts of record within their respective jurisdictions shall
8 have power to declare rights, status and other legal relations
9 whether or not further relief is or could be claimed. An action or
10 proceeding shall not be open to objection on the ground that a
11 declaratory judgment or decree is prayed for. The declaration may be
12 either affirmative or negative in form and effect; and such
13 declarations shall have the force and effect of a final judgment or
14 decree.

15 (2) A county, city, town, special district, or other local
16 government entity may not obtain a declaratory judgment about its
17 rights, status, or other legal relations with respect to a statewide
18 ballot measure.

19 **Sec. 2.** RCW 7.40.020 and 2011 c 336 s 194 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

1 When it appears by the complaint that the plaintiff is entitled
2 to the relief demanded and the relief, or any part thereof, consists
3 in restraining the commission or continuance of some act, the
4 commission or continuance of which during the litigation would
5 produce great injury to the plaintiff; or when during the litigation,
6 it appears that the defendant is doing, or threatened, or is about to
7 do, or is procuring, or is suffering some act to be done in violation
8 of the plaintiff's rights respecting the subject of the action
9 tending to render the judgment ineffectual; or where such relief, or
10 any part thereof, consists in restraining proceedings upon any final
11 order or judgment, an injunction may be granted to restrain such act
12 or proceedings until the further order of the court, which may
13 afterwards be dissolved or modified upon motion. However, in no
14 circumstance may a county, city, town, special district, or other
15 local government obtain an injunction to restrain a statewide ballot
16 measure. And where it appears in the complaint at the commencement of
17 the action, or during the pendency thereof, by affidavit, that the
18 defendant threatens, or is about to remove or dispose of his or her
19 property with intent to defraud his or her creditors, a temporary
20 injunction may be granted to restrain the removal or disposition of
21 his or her property.

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