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HOUSE BILL 2916

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Mosbrucker, Ormsby, Chandler, Chapman, and Hoff

1 AN ACT Relating to voters' pamphlets for overseas and service  
2 voters; amending RCW 29A.32.010, 29A.32.260, and 29A.72.025; and  
3 creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that service and  
6 overseas voters have the right to vote for their elected officials.  
7 To effectuate this right, service and overseas voters must have  
8 access to the same ballot materials as voters present in the state  
9 with sufficient time to thoughtfully consider candidates and issues  
10 before casting a ballot. Accordingly, the legislature intends to  
11 ensure that voters' pamphlets are distributed to service and overseas  
12 voters at the same time as the ballot.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 29A.32.010 and 2003 c 111 s 801 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 The secretary of state shall, whenever at least one statewide  
16 measure or office is scheduled to appear on the general election  
17 ballot, print and distribute a voters' pamphlet.

18 The secretary of state shall distribute the voters' pamphlet to  
19 each household in the state, to each household in which a service or  
20 overseas voter lives, to public libraries, and to any other locations

1 ((he or she)) the secretary deems appropriate. The secretary of state  
2 shall also produce taped or Braille transcripts of the voters'  
3 pamphlet, publicize their availability, and mail without charge a  
4 copy to any person who requests one. A pamphlet mailed to a service  
5 or overseas voter under this section must be sent at the same time as  
6 the ballot.

7 The secretary of state may make the material required to be  
8 distributed by this chapter available to the public in electronic  
9 form. The secretary of state may provide the material in electronic  
10 form to computer bulletin boards, print and broadcast news media,  
11 community computer networks, and similar services at the cost of  
12 reproduction or transmission of the data.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 29A.32.260 and 2011 c 10 s 30 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 As soon as practicable before the primary, special election, or  
16 general election, the county auditor, or if applicable, the city  
17 clerk of a first-class or code city, as appropriate, shall mail the  
18 local voters' pamphlet to every residence in each jurisdiction that  
19 has included information in the pamphlet, as well as to the residence  
20 of every service or overseas voter who is registered in the  
21 jurisdiction. The county auditor or city clerk, as appropriate, may  
22 choose to mail the pamphlet to each registered voter in each  
23 jurisdiction that has included information in the pamphlet, if in his  
24 or her judgment, a more economical and effective distribution of the  
25 pamphlet would result. A pamphlet mailed to a service or overseas  
26 voter under this section must be sent at the same time as the ballot.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 29A.72.025 and 2009 c 415 s 7 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 The office of financial management, in consultation with the  
30 secretary of state, the attorney general, and any other appropriate  
31 state or local agency, shall prepare a fiscal impact statement for  
32 each of the following state ballot measures: (1) An initiative to the  
33 people that is certified to the ballot; (2) an initiative to the  
34 legislature that will appear on the ballot; (3) an alternative  
35 measure appearing on the ballot that the legislature proposes to an  
36 initiative to the legislature; (4) a referendum bill referred to  
37 voters by the legislature; and (5) a referendum measure appearing on  
38 the ballot. Fiscal impact statements must be written in clear and

1 concise language, avoid legal and technical terms when possible, and  
2 be filed with the secretary of state no later than (~~the tenth day of~~  
3 ~~August~~) July 15th. Fiscal impact statements may include easily  
4 understood graphics.

5 A fiscal impact statement must describe any projected increase or  
6 decrease in revenues, costs, expenditures, or indebtedness that the  
7 state or local governments will experience if the ballot measure were  
8 approved by state voters. Where appropriate, a fiscal impact  
9 statement may include both estimated dollar amounts and a description  
10 placing the estimated dollar amounts into context. A fiscal impact  
11 statement must include both a summary of not to exceed one hundred  
12 words and a more detailed statement that includes the assumptions  
13 that were made to develop the fiscal impacts.

14 Fiscal impact statements must be available online from the  
15 secretary of state's web site and included in the state voters'  
16 pamphlet. Additional information may be posted on the web site of the  
17 office of financial management.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
19 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
20 provided by June 30, 2020, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
21 act is null and void.

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