

---

**BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE**

---

BILL REQ. #: I-2781.1/14

ATTY/TYPIST: AA:bbp

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Concerning a citizen's right to call a grand jury against certain lawyers and public officers.

# Initiative Measure No. 627

filed December 2, 2013

AN ACT Relating to a citizen's right to call a grand jury against certain lawyers and public officers; adding a new section to chapter 2.48 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 7.56 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Citizens of Washington state file thousands of complaints yearly against lawyers with the Washington state bar association. Complaints run the gamut from fraud, misrepresentations, and false reporting to other serious statutory violations and breaches of a lawyer's oath of office. It is a fact that the Washington state bar association dismisses nearly every complaint filed without an investigation or public hearing.

Citizens of Washington state file hundreds of complaints yearly against judges and justices with the commission on judicial conduct. Complaints run the gamut from fraud, misrepresentations, and false reporting to other serious statutory violations and breaches of a

judge's and justice's oath of office. It is a fact that nearly every complaint filed is dismissed by the commission on judicial conduct without an investigation or public hearing.

Because lawyers are occupying ever more vital government positions within the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and within administrative committees, boards, and agencies, the lack of a speedy procedural remedy available to citizens to exercise their oversight of the governments that serve them and the lack of true regulatory functions by the Washington state bar association and the commission on judicial conduct means that lawyers are becoming our government. Thus, by their common association in the Washington state bar association, our government is, or will soon be, an extension of the bar association's power.

This act is intended to correct substantive flaws in the existing architecture of the courts which breed fraud, deceit, favoritism, and prejudice and render the notion of a fair and impartial hearing more myth than reality. It is necessary to codify the constitutional rights of Washington state citizens as embodied in Article I, section 1 of the state Constitution, and to resolve the inherent conflict of interest that occurs when members of the Washington state bar association sit in judgment of their own conduct in either a judicial or quasi-judicial capacity.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 2.48 RCW to read as follows:

An aggrieved citizen who has suffered a claimed injustice resulting from conduct by any lawyer who holds any public office or franchise within the state, or any office in any corporation created by the authority of the state, may call a grand jury as described in RCW 10.27.020 to present evidence of the lawyer's misconduct. The grand jury must be selected as in the manner provided in chapter 2.36 RCW and must perform its regular functions under RCW 10.27.100 through 10.27.190.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 7.56 RCW to read as follows:

Any citizen may call a grand jury as described in RCW 10.27.020, and the grand jury has the authority to remove any public officer who holds any public office or franchise within the state, or any office in any corporation created by the authority of the state, if the citizen filed an information in accordance with this chapter and the public officer has not responded as required under RCW 7.56.050, a court has not removed the officer, or proceedings have not been started to remove the officer under this chapter. The grand jury must be selected as in the manner provided in chapter 2.36 RCW and must perform its regular functions under RCW 10.27.100 through 10.27.190.