

FORMATTING NOTE:

In initiatives, legislative bills and other proposed measures, language that is to be deleted from current statutes is represented by a "strikethrough" character and language that is to be added is underlined. Because these special characters cannot be formatted in all Internet browsers, a different set of symbols is used for presenting these proposals on-line. The symbols are as follows:

- Text that is surrounded by (~~{- text here -}~~) is text that will be DELETED FROM the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- Text that is surrounded by {+ text here +} is text that will be ADDED TO the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- {+ NEW SECTION+} (found at the beginning of a section or paragraph) indicates that ALL of the text in that section will become law if the proposed measure is approved.

* * *

INITIATIVE 246

AN ACT Relating to the establishment of Washington state constitutional initiative procedures facilitating Washington state citizens to initiate and directly enact amendments to the Washington state Constitution; adding new sections to chapter 29.79 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 1. (1) We the people of the State of Washington are sovereign, and at times may find we need to express this sovereignty by directly amending the state Constitution, in order to ensure that our government continues to function in our best collective interest.

(2) All government, including government by elected representatives, can be and often is influenced by well-financed and organized special interests, and becomes incapable of acting in the people's best interests. Therefore, we cannot rely on representative government to police itself, and alter its own form and constitutional powers, or the provisions of the Constitution. For these reasons, it is necessary for the people to provide themselves the means to act separately from and above government in order to amend the state Constitution in ways we deem necessary to ensure the proper functioning of government.

(3) We the people, as sovereigns of the state of Washington, do not require the explicit authorization within the existing Constitution to directly alter its form. We possess the unalienable human and constitutional right as citizens of the state of Washington, as free and equal human beings, as the original enactors of the Constitution, and as the only legitimate source of its authority, to amend, alter, or completely replace our state Constitution as we may choose, notwithstanding the presence or absence of any stated provisions within it. The constitutional basis for this right resides in the Preamble to the state Constitution: "We, the people of the State of Washington, grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties, do ordain this constitution;" Article I, Section 1 POLITICAL POWER: "All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to

protect and maintain individual rights;" Article I, Section 4 RIGHT OF PETITION AND ASSEMBLAGE: "The right of petition and of the people peaceably to assemble for the common good shall never be abridged;" and Article I, Section 30 RIGHTS RESERVED: "The enumeration in this Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny others retained by the people."

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 2. The following definitions apply to sections 3 through 5 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Constitutional initiative measure" means any proposed amendment or alteration to the state Constitution that is printed on an initiative petition.

(2) "Constitutional initiative" means an initiative that proposes an amendment or alteration to the Washington state Constitution.

(3) "Constitutional initiative petition" means a petition meeting all the requirements stipulated in this chapter, and having printed on it a proposed amendment or alteration to the Washington state Constitution.

(4) "Constitution" means the Washington state Constitution.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 3. The procedures governing constitutional initiatives shall be the same as those governing other state initiatives to the people as prescribed in this title, except as otherwise stated.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 4. In case of constitutional initiative petitions the number of signatures required to qualify the constitutional initiative measure for the ballot shall be equal to or greater than three percent of the votes cast for the office of governor at the last gubernatorial election preceding the initial filing of the text of the constitutional initiative measure with the secretary of state.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 5. Constitutional initiative measures proposed to be submitted to the people must be filed with the secretary of state within sixteen months prior to the election at which they are to be submitted, and the constitutional initiative petition must be filed with the secretary of state not less than four months before the next general state-wide election.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 6. Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each added to chapter 29.79 RCW.

--- END ---