

**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.

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**INITIATIVE 720**

AN ACT Relating to restricting the area of sales of nontaxable merchandise to fifteen thousand square feet within new retail stores and the expansion of existing retail stores exceeding one hundred thousand square feet without obtaining approval by the voters from the local jurisdiction at the next general election; and adding new sections to chapter 19.27 RCW.

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

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Retail stores over one hundred thousand square feet present challenges for local government.

(2) Retail stores over one hundred thousand square feet create more traffic congestion and increased levels of pollution.

(3) Retail stores over one hundred thousand square feet require additional services such as highway improvements, sewer, water, fire, and police protection.

(4) Revenue generated by locally owned and/or operated stores recirculates within the community and revenue generated by large retail stores often goes directly to out-of-town headquarters.

(5) Retail stores over one hundred thousand square feet must produce significant revenue from sales tax items to offset the added costs to local government.

(6) Because of the factors in subsections (1) through (5) of this section, new or expanded retail stores exceeding one hundred thousand square feet shall be restricted to not more than fifteen thousand square feet of nontaxable merchandise.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Area of sales" means areas for meat and produce processing, packaging, storage, display, and merchandising.

(2) "Expansion of existing retail stores" means expansion of existing retail stores which would result in a total square footage of over one hundred thousand square feet or if the existing retail store is one hundred thousand square feet or more the expansion cannot exceed

fifteen thousand square feet of nontaxable merchandise within the total square footage of the retail store.

(3) "Nontaxable merchandise" means all products not subject to Washington state sales tax.

(4) "Local jurisdiction" means the city and unincorporated county in which the planned retail store or planned expansion of existing retail store resides.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 19.27 RCW to read as follows:

(1) For purposes of this act, the sales and square footage of adjacent stores shall be aggregated if the stores share check stands, management, a controlling ownership interest, a warehouse, or a distribution facility.

(2) For purposes of this act, new retail stores and the expansion of existing retail stores shall mean all retail stores and/or expansions which have not filed a completed application for permits.

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