

HOUSE BILL NO. 678

INTRODUCED BY G. OBLANDER, S. KLAKKEN, S. GIST, S. FITZPATRICK, K. WALSH, J. SCHILLINGER, G.

NIKOLAKAKOS, S. MANESS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND IMPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUES; REQUIRING AN ITEMIZED LIST OF PRIMARY IMPACTS; AMENDING SECTION 13-27-212, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 13-27-212, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-27-212. Statement of purpose and implication. (1) A statement of purpose and implication expresses the true and impartial explanation of the proposal in plain, easily understood language. The statement of purpose and implication may not be argumentative or written so as to create prejudice for or against the issue.

(2) A statement of purpose and implication is comprised of two parts:

(a) the first part must contain complete sentences and may not exceed 135 words; ; and

(b) the second part must contain an itemized and bulleted list of the primary impacts of the proposal that includes relevant facts, specific details of what the proposal changes, and what remains the same. The list may not include generalized assumptions or opinions and may not exceed 150 words.

(3) Unless altered by the court under 13-27-605, a statement of purpose and implication is the petition title for an issue circulated by petition and the ballot title if the issue circulated by petition is placed on the ballot."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Applicability.** [This act] applies to statewide ballot issues submitted to

1 the secretary of state on or after [the effective date of this act].

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