

AMENDMENT #4

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: HCS SB 172(FIN)

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERTTULA

1 Page 2, line 4:

2 Delete "50 [100] words for each section"

3 Insert "100 words"

4

5 Page 2, lines 5 - 7:

6 Delete "In this subsection, "section" means a provision of the proposed law that is
7 distinct from other provisions in purpose or subject matter."

8

9 Page 2, lines 12 - 13:

10 Delete "50 [100] words for each section"

11 Insert "100 words"

12

13 Page 2, lines 13 - 16:

14 Delete "In this subsection, "section" means each section of the Alaska statutes
15 created, amended, or repealed in the Act, and each section of the Act that does not
16 create or amend codified law."

17

18 Page 4, line 4:

19 Delete "a new subsection"

20 Insert "new subsections"

21

22 Page 4, following line 7:

23 Insert a new subsection to read:

1 (c) For each proposition appearing on a general or primary election ballot, the
2 lieutenant governor may prepare an extended summary consisting of not more than 50
3 words for each section for inclusion in the election pamphlet."

FOR USE WITH SB 172

Table 1: Limitations on the Number of Words Used in Ballot Titles and Summaries for Statewide Initiatives and Referenda in Selected States' Constitutions and Statutes				
State	Citation(s)	Word Limits		Notes
		Title	Summary	
Alaska (current)	AS 15.45.180 (a) and AS 15.45.410 (a)	6	100	
Alaska SB 172/ HCS (JUD)/ HCS (FIN)	Current sections as amended	25	100/ 100 per sec./ 50 per sec.	We found no other states' laws that prescribe a sectional word limit.
Arizona	ARS 19-25 (D)	Not explicitly limited	50	"Official" titles are prepared by the party that initiated the action, and approved by the Attorney General; "descriptive titles" are prepared by the Secretary of State and summarize the issues in question.
Florida	FS 101.161 (1)	15	75	
Idaho	IC 34-1809 (d)	20	200	The ballot summary is referred to as a "general title" in Idaho Code.
Maryland	Cons. Art. XVI, Sec. 5 (b)		200	Maryland does not have a statewide initiative process; however, the state does allow a popular referendum process allowing citizens to refer bills passed by the legislature to the ballot via a petition process. The exact language of the measure is printed on the ballot unless it exceeds 200 words, in which case the Secretary of State prepares a concise "ballot title."
Michigan	Const. Art. VII, Sec. 2 and MCL 168.474	Not explicitly limited	100	The ballot summary is referred to as a "statement of purpose."
Missouri	MRS 116.155 (2) and MRS 166.160 (2)		50	The ballot summary and required fiscal note summary, which must also be no more than 50 words, comprise the official "ballot title."
Nebraska	RSN 32-1410 (1-2)		100	The summary is referred to as the "ballot title."
Oregon	ORS 250.053 (2)(a-d)	15	125	The entirety of the ballot language is referred to as the "ballot title." The ballot title must also include two statements of not more than 25 words that respectively describe the results of a "yes" and "no" vote.
Utah	UCA 20A-7-209	Not explicitly limited	100	The summary is referred to as the "ballot title."
Washington	RCWA 29A.72.050	40	75	A "statement of the subject" (10 words) and a "concise statement" (30 words) together with the question (in a "yes" or "no" format), comprise the entire title.

Notes: Only sections of states' constitutions or statutes related to limiting the number of words on ballots for statewide initiatives or referenda are shown. We did not review county or municipal requirements or the regulations promulgated in accordance with the statutes listed.
Source: Lexus database of states' laws and the Initiative and Referendum Institute at the University of Southern California, <http://www.iandriinstitute.org/>.

DISTRIIBUTED BY REP. KERTTULA 4/10/06