

SB 783

3 Senate Bill No. 783
4 As Amended

5 SENATE BILL NO. 783 - By: Sykes of the Senate and Johnson of the
6 House.

7 [counties and county officers - providing for publication
8 of certain propositions - codification - effective date]

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

10 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 388 of Title 19, unless there is
12 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. When a county of this state is authorized to submit a
14 proposition for approval by the registered voters of the respective
15 county, whether by special election or otherwise, that will require
16 a ballot title, it shall be the duty, in addition to any other
17 duties required by law, of the county commissioners submitting the
18 measure to prepare and file one copy of the measure with the
19 district attorney of the county.

20 B. The county commissioners submitting the measure shall also
21 submit a suggested ballot title which shall be filed on a separate
22 sheet of paper and shall not be deemed part of the petition. The
23 suggested ballot title:

- 24 1. Shall not exceed two hundred (200) words;

1 2. Shall explain in basic words, which can be easily found in
2 dictionaries of general usage, the effect of the proposition;

3 3. Shall be written on the eighth-grade reading comprehension
4 level;

5 4. Shall not contain any words which have a special meaning for
6 a particular profession or trade not commonly known to the citizens
7 of this state;

8 5. Shall not reflect partiality in its composition or contain
9 any argument for or against the measure;

10 6. In tax-related propositions, the proposition shall detail
11 all known direct and indirect increases and decreases affecting the
12 tax code;

13 7. In tax-related propositions, the proposition shall use the
14 word "increase" when an increase in a tax may depend on the passage
15 or failure of the proposition;

16 8. Shall contain language which clearly states that a "yes"
17 vote is a vote in favor of the proposition and a "no" vote is a vote
18 against the proposition; and

19 9. Shall not contain language whereby a "yes" vote is, in fact,
20 a vote against the proposition and a "no" vote is, in fact, a vote
21 in favor of the proposition.

22 C. The district attorney of the county for which a measure has
23 been proposed shall review the filing required by subsections A and

1 B of this section for legal correctness. Within five (5) days, the
2 district attorney shall notify, in writing, the county commissioners
3 whether or not the proposed ballot title complies with applicable
4 laws.

5 D. A proposition subject to the provisions of this section
6 shall be published as provided in Section 383 of Title 19 of the
7 Oklahoma Statutes.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 2-16-09 - DO PASS, As
10 Amended and Coauthored.