

**RULING ON SSB 6088:  
NUMBER OF VOTES TO AMEND INITIATIVE  
REFERRED TO VOTERS**

(April 6, 2015)

In ruling upon the point of order raised by Senator Lias asking the number of votes required to pass SSB 6088, the President finds and rules as follows:

Initiative 1351 passed in November of 2014 and generally directs that lower class sizes be funded in all grades. SSB 6088 amends the initiative in a number of ways, subject to approval by the voters. The President believes that there is no dispute as to this point.

The question is the number of votes required to amend an initiative within two years of its enactment. Article II, Section 41 and Article II, Section 1(c) of the state constitution provides two options for amending a recently enacted initiative:

1. The Legislature may amend an initiative “by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house. . . .” or
2. The initiative “may be amended or repealed at any general regular or special election by direct vote of the people thereon.”

The President believes that the term “direct vote” encompasses both the scenario where the people file an initiative and where the Legislature refers a proposal to the voters in the form of a referendum. As there is no requirement for a supermajority vote to refer a bill to the people, the President finds that this action requires only a majority vote.