

Initiative Measure No. 1005

Filed

JAN 30 2008

SECRETARY OF STATE

1 AN ACT Relating to protecting the employment of alcohol servers
2 when they refuse to serve alcoholic beverages to pregnant women; adding
3 a new section to chapter 66.20 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Bartenders and cocktail waitresses know that
6 when pregnant women imbibe alcohol, it can result in children being
7 born with fetal alcohol syndrome. The Washington state legislature has
8 also recognized this fact in RCW 70.83C.005 and 66.16.110. This
9 knowledge creates a dilemma for alcohol servers who must weigh their
10 ethics against their need for a job in a slowing economy. This
11 initiative will remove this dilemma by allowing alcohol servers to
12 listen to their own morals without having to risk punishment. As RCW
13 9.02.150 gives medical personnel the right to decline performing an
14 abortion, on ethical grounds, without having to fear future penalties,
15 this initiative grants alcohol servers the same protection, by ensuring
16 that no alcohol server may be discriminated against in employment or
17 professional privileges because of the person's participation or
18 refusal to participate in serving pregnant women alcohol.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 66.20 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 An employer may not terminate the employment of a bartender or
4 cocktail waitress who refuses, on ethical grounds, to serve alcohol to
5 a woman that he or she believes is pregnant.

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