

HCS HB 228 -- INITIATIVE PETITIONS AND REFERENDUMS (Parson)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Special Committee on General Laws

This substitute changes the laws regarding initiative petitions and referendums. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Requires a petition circulator to be a United States citizen and a Missouri resident;
- (2) Specifies that petition circulators cannot have been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to any offense involving forgery;
- (3) Prohibits the payment of petition circulators on a per-signature basis;
- (4) Requires petition circulators to supply information to the Office of the Secretary of State verifying their eligibility and to swear by affidavit that they will comply with the conditions of the substitute;
- (5) Specifies that signatures collected by unregistered circulators or circulators who have violated the payment-per-signature requirement will not be counted;
- (6) Specifies that anyone who knowingly signs any name other than his or her own to any petition will be guilty of a class one election offense;
- (7) Requires a refundable deposit of \$500 for filing a ballot measure for certification by the Secretary of State. If the ballot measure is not certified, the deposit will be forfeited to the General Revenue Fund but a person may withdraw and resubmit a petition without paying an additional deposit; and
- (8) Establishes a mechanism for reducing the tax rate imposed by any taxing authority by voter petition. If 33% of registered voters petition for a lower tax rate, their proposal must be considered at the next regular election; and if 66% or more registered voters approve the petition, it will take effect. The election process and tax rate adjustment process are specified in the substitute.

The substitute becomes effective January 1, 2011.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Income on General Revenue Fund of \$0 in FY 2010, \$17,000 in FY 2011, and \$0 in FY 2012. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.