

HCS HB 1788 -- 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 a petition circulator cannot have been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to any offense involving forgery;
- (3) Prohibits the compensation of petition circulators on a per-signature basis and the circulation of more than one petition by a circulator simultaneously. Anyone violating these provisions will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor punishable by a term of imprisonment in the county jail of up to one year, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both;
- (4) Requires petition circulators to supply certain information to the Office of the Secretary of State verifying their eligibility and to swear by affidavit that they comply with the requirements of the substitute;
- (5) Specifies that signatures collected before the circulator registers with the Secretary of State or signatures collected by circulators who have violated the payment-per-signature or the multiple-circulation prohibition will not be counted; and
- (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.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.