

HB 535 -- Initiative and Referendum Petition Circulators

Sponsor: Leara

This bill changes the laws regarding the circulation of initiative and referendum petitions. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires a petition circulator to be a citizen of the United States, to show proof of being a resident of Missouri, to register with the Secretary of State before collecting signatures, and to affirm that these requirements have been satisfied;
- (2) Specifies that a person must not qualify as a petition circulator if he or she has been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to any offense involving or considered forgery;
- (3) Prohibits a petition circulator from being paid on a per-signature basis or circulating more than one petition at the same time. Any signatures collected by a petitioner in violation of these provisions will not be counted, and the petition circulator will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor; and
- (4) Creates the class one election offense of knowingly signing a name other than one's own to a petition.