

## HB 2079 -- INITIATIVE PETITION REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Simmons

This bill changes the format of signature sheets and requires the Secretary of State to make petition sheets available in an electronic format for printing and circulation.

There is a \$500 filing fee for each initiative or referendum petition sample sheet with an additional \$25 fee per page of text in excess of two pages. The fee is refundable if the petition is approved for circulation.

This bill specifies the maximum number of words that the official summary statement can contain is 150 words and requires signatures on petitions to be in black or blue ink.

Initiative petitions may not invalidate or modify federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, or court decisions, amend federal or Constitutional provisions, or accomplish any act delegated to the General Assembly under the Constitution of the United States.

This bill changes the "Publications Fund" to the "Secretary of State's Petition Publications Fund".

The deadline for submitting sample sheets to circulate petitions for signatures under Section 116.332, RSMo will be no earlier than 12 weeks following a general election.

The procedure for counting or evaluating signatures is specified in the bill. The bill specifies that any court ordered change to a ballot title results in the invalidation of signatures collected prior to the order.

The bill modifies the procedures under Section 116.153 for holding a public hearing on initiative petitions that receive valid signatures to be placed on the ballot. The Joint Committee on Legislative Research is required to hold a public hearing and issue a report. The Committee will not take a position on the ballot measure under consideration and it cannot prevent placement of a ballot measure on the ballot.

This bill is the same as HB 333 (2021).