

HCS HJR 47 -- INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITIONS

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 10 to 0.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment requires an initiative petition proposing a constitutional amendment to be signed by 5.25% of the legal voters in each Congressional district. Currently, a petition must be signed by 8% of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of the Congressional districts.

Initiative petitions proposing laws and referendums subjecting laws to a popular vote will require the signatures of 3.25% of the legal voters in each Congressional district. Currently, they must be signed by 5% of the legal voters in each of two-thirds of the Congressional districts.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 or More than \$7,000,000 in FY 2013, \$0 in FY 2014, and \$0 in FY 2015. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the resolution will require initiative petition and referendum proponents to gain support throughout the entire state, but will also slightly reduce the overall number of signatures required to be collected.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dugger; Beverly McCausland; and Mitch Hubbard.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the overall signature requirements should be lowered.

Testifying on the bill was Carl Bearden.