

HB 1289 -- INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM FILING

SPONSOR: Engler

This bill changes laws regarding initiatives and referendums. In its main provisions the bill:

- (1) Requires the text of proposed initiatives to be in 12 point font with numbered pages;
- (2) Requires an initial \$500 filing fee for each referendum petition sample sheet with an additional \$10 fee for each page over a ten page limit;
- (3) Prohibits the use of referenda to modify or supersede federal law or regulation or to accomplish acts delegated to the state legislature by federal law or the Constitution of the United States;
- (4) Creates a petition signature verification fund to consist of monies from an \$.90 per signature collection fee for those petitions using paid circulators. The Secretary of State may use the funds for verification of signatures;
- (5) Increases the length limit of summary statements for ballot language from 50 to 150 words;
- (6) Authorizes the General Assembly to appropriate additional monies into the signature verification fund and to pay local election authorities for signature verification;
- (7) Authorizes the Secretary of State's office and the office of the Attorney General to reject petitions on the basis of noncompliance with the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of Missouri; and
- (8) Clarifies that court-ordered challenges to ballot titles invalidate signatures collected prior to the court order.

The bill has a delayed effective date of November 8, 2018.