

HCS HB 1289 -- INITIATIVE REFERENDUM FILING (Engler)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Government Efficiency

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

- (1) Requires the Secretary of State to establish a program that will accept electronic signatures for voter registration applications and name and address changes (Section 115.961, RSMo);
- (2) Requires the Secretary of State and local election authorities to accept electronic signatures on all initiative petitions (Section 115.961);
- (3) Requires the Secretary of State to establish enhanced standards and procedures to safeguard the privacy, integrity, and security of voter registration information (Section 115.961);
- (4) Requires the Secretary of State to prescribe new petition signature page forms including certain information and to make the form available to the public in electronic format (Section 116.045);
- (5) Requires the text of proposed initiatives to be in 12-point font with numbered pages (Section 116.050);
- (6) Requires an initial \$500 filing fee for each referendum petition sample sheet with an additional \$10 fee for each page over a 10-page limit (Section 116.050);
- (7) Prohibits the use of referendums 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 (Section 116.050);
- (8) 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 (Section 115.050);
- (9) Increases the length limit of summary statements for ballot language from 50 to 150 words (Section 116.334); and
- (10) Clarifies that court-ordered challenges to ballot titles invalidate signatures collected prior to the court order (Section 116.334).

The bill establishes the "Secretary of State's Petition

Publications Fund," which shall be a dedicated fund and upon appropriation, shall be used solely for the administration of Section 116.050. The fund shall be administered by the State Treasurer and he or she shall be the custodian of the fund and approve disbursements of the fund (Section 116.270).

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