

# SENATE BILL NO. 1270

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHROER.

4557S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.080, 116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 116.153, 116.190, 116.200, 116.332, and 116.334, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twelve new sections relating to procedures for ballot measures submitted to the people, with penalty provisions and an effective date for certain sections.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.080, 116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 116.153, 116.190, 116.200, 116.332, and 116.334, RSMo, are repealed and twelve new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.045, 116.050, 116.080, 116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 116.190, 116.200, 116.332, and 116.334, to read as follows:

116.030. The following shall be substantially the form of each page of referendum petitions on any law passed by the general assembly of the state of Missouri:

County \_\_\_\_\_

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section [560.021] **558.002**, RSMo, to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any referendum petition with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not a registered voter.

**EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

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PETITION FOR REFERENDUM

To the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary of State for the state of Missouri:

We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri and \_\_\_\_\_ County (or City of St. Louis), respectfully order that the Senate (or House) Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ entitled (title of law), passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ general assembly of the state of Missouri, at the \_\_\_\_\_ regular (or special) session of the \_\_\_\_\_ general assembly, shall be referred to the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the general election to be held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, unless the general assembly shall designate another date, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a registered voter of the state of Missouri and \_\_\_\_\_ County (or City of St. Louis); my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or village in which I live are correctly written after my name.

(Official Ballot title) \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT

State Of Missouri,  
County Of \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, say (print or type names of signers)

NAME	DATE REGISTERED	ZIP CONGR.	NAME
(Signature)	SIGNED VOTING ADDRESS	CODE DIST.	(Printed or
	(Street)		(City,
	(City,		Town or
	Town or		Village)
	Village)		Typed)

(Here follow numbered lines for signers)

signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her name, registered

51 voting address and city, town or village correctly, and  
52 that each signer is a registered voter of the state of  
53 Missouri and \_\_\_\_\_ County.

54 FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF  
55 PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT  
56 AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF,  
57 OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY.

58

59 I **have met the qualifications of section 116.080** and am at  
60 least 18 years of age. I do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_ (check  
61 one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If  
62 paid, list the payer \_\_\_\_\_

63

\_\_\_\_\_

64

Signature of Affiant

65

(Person obtaining signatures)

66

\_\_\_\_\_

67

(Printed Name of Affiant)

68

\_\_\_\_\_

69

Address of Affiant

70 Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
71 \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

72

\_\_\_\_\_

73

Signature of Notary

74

Address of Notary

75

Notary Public (Seal)

76

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

77 If this form is followed substantially and the requirements  
78 of [section] **sections 116.045**, 116.050, and [section]  
79 116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding  
80 clerical and merely technical errors.

116.040. The following shall be substantially the form  
2 of each page of each petition for any law or amendment to  
3 the Constitution of the state of Missouri proposed by the  
4 initiative:

5 County \_\_\_\_\_

6 Page No. \_\_\_\_\_

7 It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding  
8 the provisions of section [560.021] 558.002, RSMo, to  
9 the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed  
10 one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten  
11 thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any  
12 initiative petition with any name other than his or her  
13 own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than  
14 once for the same measure for the same election, or to  
15 sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not  
16 a registered voter.

17 INITIATIVE PETITION

18 To the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary of State for the  
19 state of Missouri:

20 We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of  
21 Missouri and \_\_\_\_\_ County (or City of St. Louis),  
22 respectfully order that the following proposed law (or  
23 amendment to the constitution) shall be submitted to  
24 the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval  
25 or rejection, at the general election to be held on the  
26 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and each for himself or  
27 herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I  
28 am a registered voter of the state of Missouri and  
29 \_\_\_\_\_ County (or City of St. Louis); my registered  
30 voting address and the name of the city, town or  
31 village in which I live are correctly written after my  
name.

32 (Official Ballot title) \_\_\_\_\_

33 CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT

34 State Of Missouri,

35 County Of \_\_\_\_\_

36 I, \_\_\_\_\_, being first duly sworn, say (print or type  
37 names of signers)

38	NAME	DATE	REGISTERED	ZIP	CONGR.	NAME
39		SIGNED	VOTING ADDRESS	CODE	DIST.	
40	(Signatur		(Street) (City,			(Printed
41	e)					or
42			Town or			Typed)
			Village)			

43 (Here follow numbered lines for signers)

44 signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of  
45 them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I  
46 believe that each has stated his or her name,  
47 registered voting address and city, town or village  
48 correctly, and that each signer is a registered voter  
49 of the state of Missouri and \_\_\_\_\_ County.

50 FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF  
51 PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND  
52 CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND  
53 GUILTY OF, OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING  
54 FORGERY.

55 I **have met the qualifications of section 116.080** and am  
56 at least 18 years of age. I do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
57 (check one) expect to be paid for circulating this  
58 petition. If paid, list the payer \_\_\_\_\_

59 \_\_\_\_\_  
60 Signature of Affiant  
61 (Person obtaining signatures)

62 \_\_\_\_\_  
63 (Printed Name of Affiant)

64 \_\_\_\_\_  
65 Address of Affiant

66 Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
67 \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. \_\_\_\_\_

68 \_\_\_\_\_

69 Signature of Notary  
 70 Address of Notary  
 71 Notary Public (Seal)  
 72 My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

73 If this form is followed substantially and the requirements  
 74 of [section] sections 116.045, 116.050, and [section]  
 75 116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding  
 76 clerical and merely technical errors.

**116.045. Initiative and referendum petition signature  
 2 pages shall be printed on a form as prescribed by the  
 3 secretary of state, which shall include all of the  
 4 information and statements set forth in section 116.030 or  
 5 116.040, as applicable, and comply with section 116.050.  
 6 The form shall be made available in electronic format for  
 7 printing and circulating petitions.**

116.050. 1. Initiative and referendum petitions filed  
 2 under the provisions of this chapter shall consist of pages  
 3 of a uniform size. Each page, excluding the text of the  
 4 measure, shall be no larger than eight and one-half by  
 5 fourteen inches. **The text of the proposed measure shall be  
 6 in a font that is not smaller than twelve point, Times New  
 7 Roman, and have a top, bottom, left, and right margin of not  
 8 less than one inch. Page numbers may appear in the bottom  
 9 margin.** Each page of an initiative petition shall be  
 10 attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of the  
 11 proposed measure. Each page of a referendum petition shall  
 12 be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of  
 13 the measure on which the referendum is sought.

14 2. The full and correct text of all initiative and  
 15 referendum petition measures shall:

16 (1) Contain all matter which is to be deleted included  
17 in its proper place enclosed in brackets and all new matter  
18 shown underlined;

19 (2) Include all sections of existing law or of the  
20 constitution which would be repealed by the measure; and

21 (3) Otherwise conform to the provisions of [Article  
22 III, Section 28 and] Article III, [Section] **Sections 28, 49,**  
23 **50, 51, and 52(a)** of the **Missouri** Constitution and those of  
24 this chapter.

25 **3. The full and correct text of all initiative**  
26 **petition measures shall not purport to:**

27 (1) **Declare any federal statute, regulation, executive**  
28 **order, or court decision to be void or in violation of the**  
29 **United States Constitution;**

30 (2) **Amend any federal law or the United States**  
31 **Constitution; or**

32 (3) **Accomplish an act that the United States**  
33 **Constitution requires to be accomplished by the general**  
34 **assembly.**

116.080. 1. Each petition circulator shall be [at  
2 least] **a citizen of the United States**, eighteen years of age  
3 **or older, a resident of this state or physically present in**  
4 **this state for at least thirty consecutive days prior to the**  
5 **collection of signatures**, and registered with the secretary  
6 of state. **No petition circulator shall be paid anything of**  
7 **value that is based upon the number of signatures**  
8 **collected.** Signatures collected by any circulator who has  
9 not registered with the secretary of state pursuant to this  
10 chapter on or before 5:00 p.m. on the final day for filing  
11 petitions with the secretary of state shall not be counted.  
12 A petition circulator shall be deemed registered at the time  
13 such circulator delivers a signed circulator's affidavit

14 pursuant to section 116.030, with respect to a referendum  
15 petition, or section 116.040, with respect to an initiative  
16 petition, to the office of the secretary of state. No  
17 person shall qualify as a petition circulator who has been  
18 convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to an offense  
19 involving forgery under the laws of this state or an offense  
20 under the laws of any other jurisdiction if that offense  
21 would be considered forgery under the laws of this state.

22 2. Each petition circulator shall subscribe and swear  
23 to the proper affidavit on each petition page such  
24 circulator submits before a notary public commissioned in  
25 Missouri. When notarizing a circulator's signature, a  
26 notary public shall sign his or her official signature and  
27 affix his or her official seal to the affidavit only if the  
28 circulator personally appears before the notary and  
29 subscribes and swears to the affidavit in his or her  
30 presence.

31 3. Any circulator who falsely swears to a circulator's  
32 affidavit knowing it to be false is guilty of a class A  
33 misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of  
34 section [560.021] **558.002** to the contrary, for a term of  
35 imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a  
36 fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both.

116.090. 1. Any person who commits any of the  
2 following actions is guilty of the crime of petition  
3 signature fraud:

4 (1) Signs any name other than his or her own to any  
5 petition, or who knowingly signs his or her name more than  
6 once for the same measure for the same election, or who  
7 knows he or she is not at the time of signing or circulating  
8 the same a Missouri registered voter and a resident of this  
9 state; or



10           (2) Intentionally submits petition signature sheets  
11 with the knowledge that the person whose name appears on the  
12 signature sheet did not actually sign the petition; or

13           (3) Causes a voter to sign a petition other than the  
14 one the voter intended to sign; or

15           (4) Forges or falsifies signatures; or

16           (5) Knowingly accepts or offers money or anything of  
17 value to another person in exchange for a signature on a  
18 petition.

19           2. Any person who knowingly causes a petition  
20 circulator's signatures to be submitted for counting, and  
21 who either knows that such circulator has violated  
22 subsection 1 of this section or, after receiving notice of  
23 facts indicating that such person may have violated  
24 subsection 1 of this section, causes the signatures to be  
25 submitted with reckless indifference as to whether such  
26 circulator has complied with subsection 1 of this section,  
27 shall also be deemed to have committed the crime of petition  
28 signature fraud.

29           3. A person who violates subsection 1 or 2 of this  
30 section, shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a  
31 class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the  
32 provisions of section [560.021] **558.002** to the contrary, by  
33 a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county  
34 jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both.

35           4. Any person employed by or serving as an election  
36 authority, that has reasonable cause to suspect a person has  
37 committed petition signature fraud, shall immediately report  
38 or cause a report to be made to the appropriate prosecuting  
39 authorities. Failure to so report or cause a report to be  
40 made shall be a class A misdemeanor.

116.110. Any voter who has signed an initiative or  
2 referendum petition may withdraw his or her signature from  
3 that petition by submitting to the secretary of state,  
4 before the petition is filed with the secretary of state, a  
5 sworn statement requesting that his or her signature be  
6 withdrawn and affirming the name of the petition signed, the  
7 name the voter used when signing the petition, the address  
8 of the voter and the county of residence. It is a class A  
9 misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of  
10 section [560.021] **558.002** to the contrary, for a term of  
11 imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a  
12 fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, to  
13 knowingly file a false withdrawal statement with the  
14 secretary of state.

116.130. 1. The secretary of state may send copies of  
2 petition pages to election authorities to verify that the  
3 persons whose names are listed as signers to the petition  
4 are registered voters. Such verification may either be of  
5 each signature or by random sampling as provided in section  
6 116.120, as the secretary shall direct. If copies of the  
7 petition pages are sent to an election authority for  
8 verification, such copies shall be sent pursuant to the  
9 following schedule:

10 (1) Copies of all pages from not less than one  
11 petition shall be received in the office of the election  
12 authority not later than two weeks after the petition is  
13 filed in the office of secretary of state;

14 (2) Copies of all pages of a total of three petitions  
15 shall be received in the office of the election authority  
16 not later than three weeks after the petition is filed in  
17 the office of the secretary of state;

18           (3) If more than three petitions are filed, all copies  
19 of petition pages, including those petitions selected for  
20 verification by random sample pursuant to section 116.120,  
21 shall be received in the office of the election authority  
22 not later than the fourth week after the petition is filed  
23 in the office of the secretary of state.

24 Each election authority shall check the signatures against  
25 voter registration records in the election authority's  
26 jurisdiction, but the election authority shall count as  
27 valid only the signatures of persons registered as voters in  
28 the county named in the circulator's affidavit. Signatures  
29 shall not be counted as valid if they have been struck  
30 through or crossed out. **Signatures shall be recorded in**  
31 **dark ink.**

32           2. If the election authority is requested to verify  
33 the petition by random sampling, such verification shall be  
34 completed and certified not later than thirty days from the  
35 date that the election authority receives the petition from  
36 the secretary of state. If the election authority is to  
37 verify each signature, such verification [must] **shall** be  
38 completed, certified and delivered to the secretary of state  
39 by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July prior to the  
40 election, or in the event of complete verification of  
41 signatures after a failed random sample, full verification  
42 shall be completed, certified and delivered to the secretary  
43 of state by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July or by  
44 5:00 p.m. on the Friday of the fifth week after receipt of  
45 the signatures by the local election authority, whichever is  
46 later.

47           3. If the election authority or the secretary of state  
48 determines that the congressional district number written

49 after the signature of any voter is not the congressional  
50 district of which the voter is a resident, the election  
51 authority or the secretary of state shall correct the  
52 congressional district number on the petition page. Failure  
53 of a voter to give the voter's correct congressional  
54 district number shall not by itself be grounds for not  
55 counting the voter's signature.

56 4. The election authority shall return the copies of  
57 the petition pages to the secretary of state with  
58 annotations regarding any invalid or questionable signatures  
59 which the election authority has been asked to check by the  
60 secretary of state. The election authority shall verify the  
61 number of pages received for that county, and also certify  
62 the total number of valid signatures of voters from each  
63 congressional district which the election authority has been  
64 asked to check by the secretary of state.

65 5. The secretary of state is authorized to adopt rules  
66 to ensure uniform, complete, and accurate checking of  
67 petition signatures either by actual count or random  
68 sampling. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant  
69 to this section shall become effective unless it has been  
70 promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536.

71 6. After a period of three years from the time of  
72 submission of the petitions to the secretary of state, the  
73 secretary of state, if the secretary determines that  
74 retention of such petitions is no longer necessary, may  
75 destroy such petitions.

116.190. 1. Any **[citizen]** **Missouri registered voter**  
2 who wishes to challenge the official ballot title or the  
3 fiscal note prepared for a proposed constitutional amendment  
4 submitted by the general assembly, by initiative petition,  
5 or by constitutional convention, or for a statutory

6 initiative or referendum measure, may bring an action in the  
7 circuit court of Cole County. The action must be brought  
8 within ten days after the official ballot title is certified  
9 by the secretary of state in accordance with the provisions  
10 of this chapter.

11 2. The secretary of state shall be named as a party  
12 defendant in any action challenging the official ballot  
13 title prepared by the secretary of state. When the action  
14 challenges the fiscal note or the fiscal note summary  
15 prepared by the auditor, the state auditor shall also be  
16 named as a party defendant. The president pro tem of the  
17 senate, the speaker of the house and the sponsor of the  
18 measure and the secretary of state shall be the named party  
19 defendants in any action challenging the official summary  
20 statement, fiscal note or fiscal note summary prepared  
21 pursuant to section 116.155.

22 3. The petition shall state the reason or reasons why  
23 the summary statement portion of the official ballot title  
24 is insufficient or unfair and shall request a different  
25 summary statement portion of the official ballot title.  
26 Alternatively, the petition shall state the reasons why the  
27 fiscal note or the fiscal note summary portion of the  
28 official ballot title is insufficient or unfair and shall  
29 request a different fiscal note or fiscal note summary  
30 portion of the official ballot title.

31 4. The action shall be placed at the top of the civil  
32 docket. Insofar as the action challenges the summary  
33 statement portion of the official ballot title, the court  
34 shall consider the petition, hear arguments, and in its  
35 decision certify the summary statement portion of the  
36 official ballot title to the secretary of state. Insofar as  
37 the action challenges the fiscal note or the fiscal note

38 summary portion of the official ballot title, the court  
39 shall consider the petition, hear arguments, and in its  
40 decision, either certify the fiscal note or the fiscal note  
41 summary portion of the official ballot title to the  
42 secretary of state or remand the fiscal note or the fiscal  
43 note summary to the auditor for preparation of a new fiscal  
44 note or fiscal note summary pursuant to the procedures set  
45 forth in section 116.175. Any party [to the suit] may  
46 appeal [to the supreme court] within ten days after [a  
47 circuit court decision] **the entry of judgment by the circuit**  
48 **court.** In making the legal notice to election authorities  
49 under section 116.240, and for the purposes of section  
50 116.180, the secretary of state shall certify the language  
51 which the court certifies to him.

52 5. Any action brought under this section that is not  
53 fully and finally adjudicated within one hundred eighty days  
54 of filing, and more than fifty-six days prior to **the**  
55 election in which the measure is to appear, including all  
56 appeals, shall be extinguished, unless a court, **before the**  
57 **expiration of the foregoing periods,** extends such period  
58 upon [a] **an express** finding of good cause for such extension  
59 **but no extension shall cause the final adjudication to occur**  
60 **less than fifty-six days before the date of the election.**

61 Such good cause shall consist only of court-related  
62 scheduling issues and shall not include requests for  
63 continuance by the parties. **No court, including any**  
64 **appellate court, shall have the authority to issue any form**  
65 **of relief after the expiration of the foregoing periods.**

116.200. 1. After the secretary of state certifies a  
2 petition as sufficient or insufficient, any [citizen]  
3 **Missouri registered voter** may apply to the circuit court of  
4 Cole County to compel [him] **the secretary of state** to

5 reverse his **or her** decision. The action must be brought  
6 within ten days after the certification is made. All such  
7 suits shall be advanced on the court docket and heard and  
8 decided by the court as quickly as possible.

9 2. If the court decides the petition is sufficient,  
10 the secretary of state shall certify it as sufficient and  
11 attach a copy of the judgment. If the court decides the  
12 petition is insufficient, the court shall enjoin the  
13 secretary of state from certifying the measure and all other  
14 officers from printing the measure on the ballot.

15 3. **Any party may appeal** within ten days after [a  
16 decision is rendered, any party may appeal it to the supreme  
17 court] **the entry of the judgment by the circuit court.**

116.332. 1. Before a constitutional amendment  
2 petition, a statutory initiative petition, or a referendum  
3 petition may be circulated for signatures, a sample sheet  
4 [must] **shall** be submitted to the secretary of state in the  
5 form in which it will be circulated. **Sample sheets may be**  
6 **submitted to the secretary of state any time after a general**  
7 **election until six months prior to the next general**  
8 **election.** When a person submits a sample sheet of a  
9 petition he or she shall designate to the secretary of state  
10 the name and address of the person to whom any notices shall  
11 be sent pursuant to sections 116.140 and 116.180 and, if a  
12 committee or person, except the individual submitting the  
13 sample sheet, is funding any portion of the drafting or  
14 submitting of the sample sheet, the person submitting the  
15 sample sheet shall submit a copy of the filed statement of  
16 committee organization required under subsection 5 of  
17 section 130.021 showing the date the statement was filed.  
18 The secretary of state shall refer a copy of the petition  
19 sheet to the attorney general for [his] approval and to the

20 state auditor for purposes of preparing a fiscal note and  
21 fiscal note summary. The secretary of state and attorney  
22 general **[must]** shall each review the petition for  
23 **[sufficiency as to form]** **compliance with section 116.050 and**  
24 **Article III, Sections 28, 49, 50, 51, and 52(a) of the**  
25 **Missouri Constitution** and approve or reject the form of the  
26 petition, stating the reasons for rejection, if any.

27 2. Within two business days of receipt of any such  
28 sample sheet, the office of the secretary of state shall  
29 conspicuously post on its website the text of the proposed  
30 measure, a disclaimer stating that such text may not  
31 constitute the full and correct text as required under  
32 section 116.050, and the name of the person or organization  
33 submitting the sample sheet. The secretary of state's  
34 failure to comply with such posting shall be considered a  
35 violation of chapter 610 and subject to the penalties  
36 provided under subsection 3 of section 610.027. The posting  
37 shall be removed within three days of either the withdrawal  
38 of the petition under section 116.115 or the rejection for  
39 any reason of the petition.

40 3. Upon receipt of a petition from the office of the  
41 secretary of state, the attorney general shall examine the  
42 petition **[as to form]** **and determine whether it complies with**  
43 **section 116.050 and Article III, Sections 28, 49, 50, 51,**  
44 **and 52(a) of the Missouri Constitution.** If the petition is  
45 rejected **[as to form]**, the attorney general shall forward  
46 his or her comments to the secretary of state within ten  
47 days after receipt of the petition by the attorney general.  
48 If the petition is approved **[as to form]**, the attorney  
49 general shall forward his or her approval **[as to form]** to  
50 the secretary of state within ten days after receipt of the  
51 petition by the attorney general.



52           4. The secretary of state shall review the comments  
53 and statements of the attorney general [as to form] and make  
54 a final decision as to the approval or rejection [of the  
55 form] of the petition. The secretary of state shall send  
56 written notice to the person who submitted the petition  
57 sheet of the approval within fifteen days after submission  
58 of the petition sheet. The secretary of state shall send  
59 written notice if the petition has been rejected, together  
60 with reasons for rejection, within fifteen days after  
61 submission of the petition sheet.

          116.334. 1. If the petition [form] is approved  
2 **pursuant to section 116.332**, the secretary of state shall  
3 make a copy of the sample petition available on the  
4 secretary of state's website. For a period of fifteen days  
5 after the petition is approved [as to form] **pursuant to**  
6 **section 116.332**, the secretary of state shall accept public  
7 comments regarding the proposed measure and provide copies  
8 of such comments upon request. Within twenty-three days of  
9 receipt of such approval, the secretary of state shall  
10 prepare and transmit to the attorney general a summary  
11 statement of the measure which shall be a concise statement  
12 not exceeding one hundred words. This statement shall [be  
13 in the form of a question using] **use** language neither  
14 intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice  
15 either for or against the proposed measure. The attorney  
16 general shall within ten days approve the legal content and  
17 form of the proposed statement.

18           2. Signatures obtained prior to the date the official  
19 ballot title is certified by the secretary of state shall  
20 not be counted. **If a court orders a change that**  
21 **substantially alters the content of the official ballot**  
22 **title under subsection 4 of section 116.190, the court shall**

23 expressly find in its order, judgment, or mandate that a  
24 substantial alteration has occurred. All signatures  
25 gathered before such change occurred shall be invalidated,  
26 regardless of whether those signatures were gathered on  
27 petition pages that displayed what was previously the  
28 official ballot title as certified by the secretary of state.

29 3. Signatures for statutory initiative petitions shall  
30 be filed not later than six months prior to the general  
31 election during which the petition's ballot measure is  
32 submitted for a vote, and shall also be collected not  
33 earlier than the day after the day upon which the previous  
34 general election was held.

2 [116.153. Within thirty days of issuing  
3 certification that the petition contains a  
4 sufficient number of valid signatures pursuant  
5 to section 116.150, the joint committee on  
6 legislative research shall hold a public hearing  
7 in Jefferson City to take public comments  
8 concerning the proposed measure. Such hearing  
9 shall be a public meeting under chapter 610.  
10 Within five business days after the end of the  
11 public hearing, the joint committee on  
12 legislative research shall provide a summary of  
13 the hearing to the secretary of state or his or  
14 her designee and the secretary of state shall  
15 post a copy of the summary on the website of the  
office of the secretary of state.]

Section B. The enactment of section 116.045 and the  
2 repeal and reenactment of sections 116.030, 116.040,  
3 116.050, 116.080, and 116.130 shall become effective on  
4 November 6, 2024.

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