



2021 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 77

HOUSE ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Senator Novstrup**

1 **An Act to require certain font size for initiated measure petitions and constitutional**
 2 **amendment petitions.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1.** That § 2-1-1.2 be AMENDED.

5 **2-1-1.2. Initiated measure--Petition--Contents--Signatures and filing.**

6 The petition as it is to be circulated for an initiated measure shall be filed with the
 7 secretary of state, including an electronic copy of the petition as it is to be circulated, prior
 8 to circulation for signatures and shall:

- 9 (1) Contain the full text of the initiated measure in fourteen-point font;
- 10 (2) Contain the date of the general election at which the initiated measure is to be
 11 submitted;
- 12 (3) Contain the title and explanation as prepared by the attorney general;
- 13 (4) Be accompanied by a notarized affidavit form signed by each person who is a
 14 petition sponsor that includes the name and address of each petition sponsor; and
- 15 (5) Be accompanied by a statement of organization as provided in § 12-27-6.

16 Each petition circulator shall provide to each person who signs the petition a form
 17 containing the title and explanation of the initiated measure as prepared by the attorney
 18 general; any fiscal note prepared pursuant to § 2-9-30; the name, phone number, and
 19 email address of each petition sponsor; a statement whether the petition circulator is a
 20 volunteer or paid petition circulator and, if a paid circulator, the amount the circulator is
 21 being paid. The form shall be approved by the secretary of state prior to circulation. The
 22 petition form, as prescribed by the State Board of Elections, shall include the paid
 23 circulator identification number within the verification of any paid circulator.

24 For any initiated measure petition, no signature may be obtained more than twenty-
 25 four months preceding the general election that was designated at the time of filing of the
 26 full text. The initiated measure petition shall be filed with the secretary of state at least

1 one year before the next general election. A sworn affidavit, signed by at least two-thirds
 2 of the petition sponsors stating that the documents filed constitute the entire petition and
 3 to the best of the knowledge of the sponsors contains a sufficient number of signatures
 4 shall also be filed with the secretary of state. The form of the petition otherwise, including
 5 petition size and petition font size for ballot measure language not prescribed in this
 6 section, and the affidavit shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections.

7 **Section 2.** That § 2-1-1.1 be AMENDED.

8 **2-1-1.1. Initiated constitutional amendment--Petition--Contents--**
 9 **Signatures and filing.**

10 The petition as it is to be circulated for an initiated amendment to the Constitution
 11 shall be filed with the secretary of state, including an electronic copy of the petition as it
 12 is to be circulated, prior to circulation for signatures and shall:

- 13 (1) Contain the full text of the initiated amendment in fourteen-point font;
- 14 (2) Contain the date of the general election at which the initiated amendment is to be
 15 submitted;
- 16 (3) Contain the title and explanation as prepared by the attorney general;
- 17 (4) Be accompanied by a notarized affidavit form signed by each person who is a
 18 petition sponsor that includes the name and address of each petition sponsor; and
- 19 (5) Be accompanied by a statement of organization as provided in § 12-27-6.

20 Each petition circulator shall provide to each person who signs the petition a form
 21 containing the title and explanation of the initiated amendment to the Constitution as
 22 prepared by the attorney general; any fiscal note prepared pursuant to § 2-9-30; the
 23 name, phone number, and email address of each petition sponsor; and a statement
 24 whether the petition circulator is a volunteer or paid petition circulator and, if a paid
 25 circulator, the amount the circulator is being paid. The form shall be approved by the
 26 secretary of state prior to circulation. The petition form, as prescribed by the State Board
 27 of Elections, shall include the paid circulator identification number within the verification
 28 of any paid circulator.

29 For any initiated amendment petition, no signature may be obtained more than
 30 twenty-four months preceding the general election that was designated at the time of
 31 filing of the full text. The initiated amendment petition shall be filed with the secretary of
 32 state at least one year before the next general election. A sworn affidavit, signed by at
 33 least two-thirds of the petition sponsors, stating that the documents filed constitute the
 34 entire petition and to the best of the knowledge of the sponsors contains a sufficient

1 number of signatures shall also be filed with the secretary of state. The form of the petition
2 otherwise, including petition size and petition font size for ballot measure language not
3 prescribed in this section, and the affidavit shall be prescribed by the State Board of
4 Elections.