Enrolled Copy	H.B. 112
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1	SUPREME COURT REVIEW OF AN
2	INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM
3	2010 GENERAL SESSION
4	STATE OF UTAH
5	Chief Sponsor: Brad L. Dee
6	Senate Sponsor: Wayne L. Niederhauser
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8	LONG TITLE
9	General Description:
10	This bill amends provisions that establish time requirements for the Supreme Court to
11	review an issue related to an initiative or referendum.
12	Highlighted Provisions:
13	This bill:
14	 deletes certain statutory time requirements for the Supreme Court to review
15	initiative and referendum issues;
16	 amends statutory time requirements for the governor and a local legislative body;
17	and
18	 authorizes the Supreme Court to refer certain fiscal impact estimate issues to a
19	master for examination and a report.
20	Monies Appropriated in this Bill:
21	None
22	Other Special Clauses:
23	None
24	Utah Code Sections Affected:
25	AMENDS:
26	20A-7-202.5 , as enacted by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 236
27	20A-7-207, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 237
28	20A-7-209 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapters 225 and 315
29	20A-7-211, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1994, Chapter 1

H.B. 112 **Enrolled Copy** 30 **20A-7-308**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 315 31 **20A-7-310**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1994, Chapter 1 32 **20A-7-502.5**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 236 33 **20A-7-510**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1994, Chapter 272 34 **20A-7-610**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1994, Chapter 272 35 36 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah: 37 Section 1. Section **20A-7-202.5** is amended to read: 38 20A-7-202.5. Initial fiscal impact estimate -- Preparation of estimate -- Challenge 39 to estimate. 40 (1) Within three working days of receipt of an application for an initiative petition, the 41 lieutenant governor shall submit a copy of the application to the Governor's Office of Planning 42 and Budget. 43 (2) (a) The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget shall prepare an unbiased, good faith estimate of the fiscal impact of the law proposed by the initiative that contains: 44 (i) a dollar amount representing the total estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law; 45 46 (ii) if the proposed law would increase or decrease taxes, a dollar amount representing 47 the total estimated increase or decrease for each type of tax affected under the proposed law 48 and a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or decrease in taxes under the 49 proposed law; 50 (iii) if the proposed law would result in the issuance or a change in the status of bonds, 51 notes, or other debt instruments, a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or 52 decrease in public debt under the proposed law; 53 (iv) a listing of all sources of funding for the estimated costs associated with the 54 proposed law showing each source of funding and the percentage of total funding provided 55 from each source; 56 (v) a dollar amount representing the estimated costs or savings, if any, to state and

local government entities under the proposed law; and

58	(vi) a concise explanation, not exceeding 100 words, of the above information and of
59	the estimated fiscal impact, if any, under the proposed law.
60	(b) (i) If the proposed law is estimated to have no fiscal impact, the Governor's Office
61	of Planning and Budget shall include a summary statement in the initial fiscal impact
62	statement in substantially the following form:
63	"The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget estimates that the law proposed by this
64	initiative would have no significant fiscal impact and would not result in either an increase or
65	decrease in taxes or debt."
66	(ii) If the proposed law is estimated to have a fiscal impact, the Governor's Office of
67	Planning and Budget shall include a summary statement in the initial fiscal impact estimate in
68	substantially the following form:
69	"The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget estimates that the law proposed by this
70	initiative would result in a total fiscal expense/savings of \$, which includes a (type of
71	tax or taxes) tax increase/decrease of \$ and a \$ increase/decrease in state debt."
72	(iii) If the estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law is highly variable or is otherwise
73	difficult to reasonably express in a summary statement, the Governor's Office of Planning and
74	Budget may include in the summary statement a brief explanation that identifies those factors
75	affecting the variability or difficulty of the estimate.
76	(3) Within 25 calendar days from the date that the lieutenant governor delivers a copy
77	of the application, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget shall:
78	(a) deliver a copy of the initial fiscal impact estimate to the lieutenant governor's
79	office; and
80	(b) mail a copy of the initial fiscal impact estimate to the first five sponsors named in
81	the initiative application.
82	(4) (a) (i) Three or more of the sponsors of the petition may, within 20 calendar days
83	of the date of delivery of the initial fiscal impact estimate to the lieutenant governor's office,
84	file a petition with the Supreme Court, alleging that the initial fiscal impact estimate, taken as
85	a whole is an inaccurate estimate of the fiscal impact of the initiative

86 (ii) After receipt of the appeal, the Supreme Court shall direct the lieutenant governor 87 to send notice of the petition to: 88 (A) any person or group that has filed an argument with the lieutenant governor's 89 office for or against the measure that is the subject of the challenge; and 90 (B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has filed 91 written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the name, mailing or 92 email address, and telephone number of the person designated to receive notice about any 93 issues relating to the initiative. 94 (b) (i) There is a presumption that the initial fiscal impact estimate prepared by the 95 Governor's Office of Planning and Budget is based upon reasonable assumptions, uses 96 reasonable data, and applies accepted analytical methods to present the estimated fiscal impact 97 of the initiative. 98 (ii) The Supreme Court may not revise the contents of, or direct the revision of, the 99 initial fiscal impact estimate unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption by clear and 100 convincing evidence that establishes that the initial fiscal estimate, taken as a whole, is an 101 inaccurate statement of the estimated fiscal impact of the initiative. 102 (iii) The Supreme Court may refer an issue related to the initial fiscal impact estimate to a master to examine the issue and make a report in accordance with Utah Rules of Civil 103 104 Procedure, Rule 53. 105 (c) The Supreme Court shall, within 30 calendar days of the date that the appeal is filed, certify to the lieutenant governor a fiscal impact estimate for the measure that meets the 106 107 requirements of this section. 108 Section 2. Section **20A-7-207** is amended to read: 20A-7-207. Evaluation by the lieutenant governor. 110

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- (1) When each initiative packet is received from a county clerk, the lieutenant governor shall check off from his record the number of each initiative packet filed.
- 112 (2) (a) After all of the initiative packets have been received by the lieutenant governor, 113 the lieutenant governor shall:

114	(i) count the number of the names certified by the county clerks that appear on each
115	verified signature sheet; and
116	(ii) declare the petition to be sufficient or insufficient by June 1 before the regular
117	general election.
118	(b) If the total number of certified names from each verified signature sheet equals or
119	exceeds the number of names required by Section 20A-7-201, the lieutenant governor shall
120	mark upon the front of the petition the word "sufficient."
121	(c) If the total number of certified names from each verified signature sheet does not
122	equal or exceed the number of names required by Section 20A-7-201, the lieutenant governor
123	shall mark upon the front of the petition the word "insufficient."
124	(d) The lieutenant governor shall immediately notify any one of the sponsors of his
125	finding.
126	(3) Once a petition is declared insufficient, the sponsors may not submit additional
127	signatures to qualify the petition for the pending regular general election.
128	(4) (a) If the lieutenant governor refuses to accept and file any initiative petition that a
129	sponsor believes is legally sufficient, any voter may, by June 15, apply to the Supreme Court
130	for an extraordinary writ to compel the lieutenant governor to do so.
131	(b) The Supreme Court shall:
132	(i) determine whether or not the initiative petition is legally sufficient; and
133	(ii) certify its findings to the lieutenant governor [by July 30].
134	(c) If the Supreme Court certifies that the initiative petition is legally sufficient, the
135	lieutenant governor shall file it, with a verified copy of the judgment attached to it, as of the
136	date on which it was originally offered for filing in his office.
137	(d) If the Supreme Court determines that any petition filed is not legally sufficient, the
138	Supreme Court may enjoin the lieutenant governor and all other officers from certifying or
139	printing the ballot title and numbers of that measure on the official ballot for the next election.
140	Section 3. Section 20A-7-209 is amended to read:

20A-7-209. Ballot title -- Duties of lieutenant governor and Office of Legislative

142	Research and General Counsel.
143	(1) By July 6 before the regular general election, the lieutenant governor shall deliver a
144	copy of all of the proposed laws that have qualified for the ballot to the Office of Legislative
145	Research and General Counsel.
146	(2) (a) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:
147	(i) entitle each state initiative that has qualified for the ballot " Proposition Number
148	" and give it a number as assigned under Section 20A-6-107;
149	(ii) prepare an impartial ballot title for each initiative summarizing the contents of the
150	measure; and
151	(iii) return each petition and ballot title to the lieutenant governor by July 20.
152	(b) The ballot title may be distinct from the title of the proposed law attached to the
153	initiative petition, and shall be not more than 100 words.
154	(c) For each state initiative, the official ballot shall show:
155	(i) the number of the initiative as determined by the Office of Legislative Research
156	and General Counsel;
157	(ii) the ballot title as determined by the Office of Legislative Research and General
158	Counsel; and
159	(iii) the initial fiscal impact estimate prepared under Section 20A-7-202.5.
160	(3) By July 21, the lieutenant governor shall mail a copy of the ballot title to any
161	sponsor of the petition.
162	(4) (a) (i) At least three of the sponsors of the petition may, by July 30, challenge the
163	wording of the ballot title prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
164	to the Supreme Court.
165	(ii) After receipt of the appeal, the Supreme Court shall direct the lieutenant governor
166	to send notice of the appeal to:
167	(A) any person or group that has filed an argument for or against the measure that is
168	the subject of the challenge; or

(B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has filed

170 written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the name, mailing or 171 email address, and telephone number of the person designated to receive notice about any 172 issues relating to the initiative. 173 (b) (i) There is a presumption that the ballot title prepared by the Office of Legislative 174 Research and General Counsel is an impartial summary of the contents of the initiative. 175 (ii) The Supreme Court may not revise the wording of the ballot title unless the 176 plaintiffs rebut the presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the ballot title is 177 patently false or biased. 178 (c) The Supreme Court shall: 179 (i) examine the ballot title; 180 (ii) hear arguments; and (iii) [by August 10,] certify to the lieutenant governor a ballot title for the measure that 181 182 meets the requirements of this section. 183 (d) The lieutenant governor shall [, no later than September 8,] certify the title verified 184 by the Supreme Court to the county clerks to be printed on the official ballot. 185 Section 4. Section **20A-7-211** is amended to read: 186 20A-7-211. Return and canvass -- Conflicting measures -- Law effective on 187 proclamation. 188 (1) The votes on the law proposed by the initiative petition shall be counted, 189 canvassed, and delivered as provided in Title 20A, Chapter 4, Part 3, Canvassing Returns. 190 (2) After the state board of canvassers completes its canvass, the lieutenant governor 191 shall certify to the governor the vote for and against the law proposed by the initiative petition. 192 (3) (a) The governor shall immediately issue a proclamation that: 193 (i) gives the total number of votes cast in the state for and against each law proposed 194 by an initiative petition; and

(ii) declares those laws proposed by an initiative petition that were approved by

(b) When the governor believes that two proposed laws, or that parts of two proposed

majority vote to be in full force and effect as the law of [the state of] Utah.

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laws approved by the people at the same election are entirely in conflict, he shall proclaim that measure to be law that has received the greatest number of affirmative votes, regardless of the difference in the majorities which those measures have received.

- (c) (i) Within 10 days after the governor's proclamation, any qualified voter who signed the initiative petition proposing the law that is declared by the governor to be superseded by another measure approved at the same election may apply to the Supreme Court to review the governor's decision.
 - (ii) The court shall:

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- (A) [immediately] consider the matter and decide whether or not the proposed laws are in conflict; and
- (B) [within 10 days after the matter is submitted to it for decision,] certify its decision to the governor.
- (4) Within [30] 10 days after [his previous proclamation] the Supreme Court certifies its decision, the governor shall:
- (a) proclaim all those measures approved by the people as law that the Supreme Court has determined are not in conflict; and
- (b) of all those measures approved by the people as law that the Supreme Court has determined to be in conflict, proclaim as law the one that received the greatest number of affirmative votes, regardless of difference in majorities.
- Section 5. Section **20A-7-308** is amended to read:
- 20A-7-308. Ballot title -- Duties of lieutenant governor and Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.
 - (1) Whenever a referendum petition is declared sufficient for submission to a vote of the people, the lieutenant governor shall deliver a copy of the petition and the proposed law to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.
 - (2) (a) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall:
- 224 (i) entitle each state referendum that has qualified for the ballot "Proposition Number 225" and give it a number as assigned under Section 20A-6-107;

226 (ii) prepare an impartial ballot title for the referendum summarizing the contents of the 227 measure; and 228 (iii) return the petition and the ballot title to the lieutenant governor within 15 days 229 after its receipt. 230 (b) The ballot title may be distinct from the title of the law that is the subject of the 231 petition, and shall be not more than 100 words. 232 (c) The ballot title and the number of the measure as determined by the Office of 233 Legislative Research and General Counsel shall be printed on the official ballot. 234 (3) Immediately after the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel files a 235 copy of the ballot title with the lieutenant governor, the lieutenant governor shall mail a copy 236 of the ballot title to any of the sponsors of the petition. 237 (4) (a) (i) At least three of the sponsors of the petition may, within 15 days of the date 238 the lieutenant governor mails the ballot title, challenge the wording of the ballot title prepared 239 by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to the Supreme Court. 240 (ii) After receipt of the appeal, the Supreme Court shall direct the lieutenant governor 241 to send notice of the appeal to: 242 (A) any person or group that has filed an argument for or against the measure that is 243 the subject of the challenge; or 244 (B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the name, mailing or 245 email address, and telephone number of the person designated to receive notice about any 246 247 issues relating to the initiative. 248 (b) (i) There is a presumption that the ballot title prepared by the Office of Legislative 249 Research and General Counsel is an impartial summary of the contents of the referendum. 250 (ii) The Supreme Court may not revise the wording of the ballot title unless the

(c) The Supreme Court shall:

patently false or biased.

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plaintiffs rebut the presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the ballot title is

H.B. 112 **Enrolled Copy** 254 (i) examine the ballot title; 255 (ii) hear arguments; and 256 (iii) [within five days of its decision,] certify to the lieutenant governor a ballot title 257 for the measure that meets the requirements of this section. 258 (d) The lieutenant governor shall certify the title verified by the Supreme Court to the 259 county clerks to be printed on the official ballot. 260 Section 6. Section **20A-7-310** is amended to read: 261 20A-7-310. Return and canvass -- Conflicting measures -- Law effective on 262 proclamation. 263 (1) The votes on the law proposed by the referendum petition shall be counted, 264 canvassed, and delivered as provided in Title 20A, Chapter 4, Part 3, Canvassing Returns. 265 (2) After the state board of canvassers completes its canvass, the lieutenant governor 266 shall certify to the governor the vote for and against the law proposed by the referendum 267 petition. 268 (3) (a) The governor shall immediately issue a proclamation that: 269 (i) gives the total number of votes cast in the state for and against each law proposed 270 by a referendum petition; and 271 (ii) declares those laws proposed by a referendum petition that were approved by 272 majority vote to be in full force and effect as the law of Utah. 273 (b) When the governor believes that two proposed laws, or that parts of two proposed 274 laws approved by the people at the same election are entirely in conflict, he shall proclaim that 275 measure to be law that has received the greatest number of affirmative votes, regardless of the 276 difference in the majorities which those measures have received. 277 (4) (a) Within 10 days after the governor's proclamation, any qualified voter who

signed the referendum petition proposing the law that is declared by the governor to be

superseded by another measure approved at the same election may apply to the Supreme Court

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to review the governor's decision.

(b) The Supreme Court shall:

282	(i) [immediately] consider the matter and decide whether or not the proposed laws are
283	in conflict; and
284	(ii) [within 10 days after the matter is submitted to it for decision,] certify its decision
285	to the governor.
286	(5) Within [30] 10 days after [his previous proclamation] the Supreme Court certifies
287	its decision, the governor shall:
288	(a) proclaim all those measures approved by the people as law that the Supreme Court
289	has determined are not in conflict; and
290	(b) of all those measures approved by the people as law that the Supreme Court has
291	determined to be in conflict, proclaim as law the one that received the greatest number of
292	affirmative votes, regardless of difference in majorities.
293	Section 7. Section 20A-7-502.5 is amended to read:
294	20A-7-502.5. Initial fiscal impact estimate Preparation of estimate Challenge
295	to estimate.
296	(1) Within three working days of receipt of an application for an initiative petition, the
297	local clerk shall submit a copy of the application to the budget officer.
298	(2) (a) The budget officer shall prepare an unbiased, good faith estimate of the fiscal
299	impact of the law proposed by the initiative that contains:
300	(i) a dollar amount representing the total estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law;
301	(ii) if the proposed law would increase or decrease taxes, a dollar amount representing
302	the total estimated increase or decrease for each type of tax affected under the proposed law
303	and a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or decrease in taxes under the
304	proposed law;
305	(iii) if the proposed law would result in the issuance or a change in the status of bonds
306	notes, or other debt instruments, a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or
307	decrease in public debt under the proposed law;
308	(iv) a listing of all sources of funding for the estimated costs associated with the
309	proposed law showing each source of funding and the percentage of total funding provided

310	from each source;
311	(v) a dollar amount representing the estimated costs or savings, if any, to state and
312	local government entities under the proposed law; and
313	(vi) a concise explanation, not exceeding 100 words, of the above information and of
314	the estimated fiscal impact, if any, under the proposed law.
315	(b) (i) If the proposed law is estimated to have no fiscal impact, the local budget
316	officer shall include a summary statement in the initial fiscal impact statement in substantially
317	the following form:
318	"The (title of the local budget officer) estimates that the law proposed by this initiative
319	would have no significant fiscal impact and would not result in either an increase or decrease
320	in taxes or debt."
321	(ii) If the proposed law is estimated to have a fiscal impact, the local budget officer
322	shall include a summary statement in the initial fiscal impact estimate in substantially the
323	following form:
324	"The (title of the local budget officer) estimates that the law proposed by this initiative
325	would result in a total fiscal expense/savings of \$, which includes a (type of tax or
326	taxes) tax increase/decrease of \$ and a \$ increase/decrease in public debt."
327	(iii) If the estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law is highly variable or is otherwise
328	difficult to reasonably express in a summary statement, the local budget officer may include in
329	the summary statement a brief explanation that identifies those factors affecting the variability
330	or difficulty of the estimate.
331	(3) Within 25 calendar days from the date that the local clerk delivers a copy of the
332	application, the budget officer shall:
333	(a) deliver a copy of the initial fiscal impact estimate to the local clerk's office; and
334	(b) mail a copy of the initial fiscal impact estimate to the first five sponsors named in
335	the application.
336	(4) (a) Three or more of the sponsors of the petition may, within 20 calendar days of
337	the date of delivery of the initial fiscal impact estimate to the local clerk's office, file a petition

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law proposed by an initiative petition; and

with the Supreme Court, alleging that the initial fiscal impact estimate, taken as a whole, is an inaccurate estimate of the fiscal impact of the initiative. (b) (i) There is a presumption that the initial fiscal impact estimate prepared by the budget officer is based upon reasonable assumptions, uses reasonable data, and applies accepted analytical methods to present the estimated fiscal impact of the initiative. 343 (ii) The Supreme Court may not revise the contents of, or direct the revision of, the 344 initial fiscal impact estimate unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption by clear and 345 convincing evidence that establishes that the fiscal estimate, taken as a whole, is an inaccurate 346 statement of the estimated fiscal impact of the initiative. (iii) The Supreme Court may refer an issue related to the initial fiscal impact estimate to a master to examine the issue and make a report in accordance with Utah Rules of Civil 348 Procedure, Rule 53. 350 (c) The Supreme Court shall, within 30 calendar days of the date that the appeal is filed,] certify to the local clerk an initial fiscal impact estimate for the measure that meets the 352 requirements of this section. Section 8. Section **20A-7-510** is amended to read: 20A-7-510. Return and canvass -- Conflicting measures -- Law effective on 355 proclamation. 356 (1) The votes on the law proposed by the initiative petition shall be counted, canvassed, and delivered as provided in Title 20A, Chapter 4, Part 3, Canvassing Returns. (2) After the local board of canvassers completes its canvass, the local clerk shall certify to the local legislative body the vote for and against the law proposed by the initiative petition. (3) (a) The local legislative body shall immediately issue a proclamation that: (i) gives the total number of votes cast in the local jurisdiction for and against each

(ii) declares those laws proposed by an initiative petition that were approved by

majority vote to be in full force and effect as the law of the local jurisdiction.

366	(b) When the local legislative body determines that two proposed laws, or that parts of
367	two proposed laws approved by the people at the same election are entirely in conflict, they
368	shall proclaim that measure to be law that has received the greatest number of affirmative
369	votes, regardless of the difference in the majorities which those measures have received.
370	(c) (i) Within 10 days after the local legislative body's proclamation, any qualified
371	voter who signed the initiative petition proposing the law that is declared by the local
372	legislative body to be superseded by another measure approved at the same election may apply
373	to the Supreme Court to review the decision.
374	(ii) The court shall:
375	(A) [immediately] consider the matter and decide whether or not the proposed laws are
376	in conflict; and
377	(B) [within 10 days after the matter is submitted to it for decision,] certify its decision
378	to the local legislative body.
379	(4) Within [30] 10 days after [its previous proclamation] the Supreme Court certifies
380	its decision, the local legislative body shall:
381	(a) proclaim all those measures approved by the people as law that the Supreme Court
382	has determined are not in conflict; and
383	(b) of all those measures approved by the people as law that the Supreme Court has
384	determined to be in conflict, proclaim as law the one that received the greatest number of
385	affirmative votes, regardless of difference in majorities.
386	Section 9. Section 20A-7-610 is amended to read:
387	20A-7-610. Return and canvass Conflicting measures Law effective on
388	proclamation.
389	(1) The votes on the law proposed by the referendum petition shall be counted,
390	canvassed, and delivered as provided in Title 20A, Chapter 4, Part 3, Canvassing Returns.
391	(2) After the local board of canvassers completes its canvass, the local clerk shall
392	certify to the local legislative body the vote for and against the law proposed by the
393	referendum petition.

394 (3) (a) The local legislative body shall immediately issue a proclamation that: 395 (i) gives the total number of votes cast in the local jurisdiction for and against each 396 law proposed by a referendum petition; and 397 (ii) declares those laws proposed by a referendum petition that were approved by 398 majority vote to be in full force and effect as the law of the local jurisdiction. 399 (b) When the local legislative body determines that two proposed laws, or that parts of 400 two proposed laws approved by the people at the same election are entirely in conflict, they 401 shall proclaim that measure to be law that has received the greatest number of affirmative 402 votes, regardless of the difference in the majorities which those measures have received. 403 (4) (a) Within 10 days after the local legislative body's proclamation, any qualified 404 voter who signed the referendum petition proposing the law that is declared by the local 405 legislative body to be superseded by another measure approved at the same election may apply 406 to the Supreme Court to review the decision. 407 (b) The Supreme Court shall: 408 (i) [immediately] consider the matter and decide whether or not the proposed laws are 409 in conflict; and 410 (ii) [within 10 days after the matter is submitted to it for decision,] certify its decision to the local legislative body. 411 412 (5) Within [30] 10 days after [its previous proclamation] the Supreme Court certifies 413 its decision, the local legislative body shall: 414 (a) proclaim all those measures approved by the people as law that the Supreme Court

- (b) of all those measures approved by the people as law that the Supreme Court has
- determined to be in conflict, proclaim as law the one that received the greatest number of
- 418 affirmative votes, regardless of difference in majorities.

has determined are not in conflict; and

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