

**INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PETITION AMENDMENTS**

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jon E. Stanard**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill makes changes to an initiative petition signature sheet and a referendum petition signature sheet.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ adds a statement to a statewide or local initiative petition signature sheet stating that a signer has read, understands, and agrees to the law proposed by the petition;
- ▶ adds a statement to a statewide or local referendum petition signature sheet stating that a signer has read and understands the law the petition seeks to overturn; and
- ▶ makes technical corrections.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**20A-7-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2013, Chapter 310

**20A-7-303**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 78

**20A-7-503**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 72

**20A-7-603**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 72



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29 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

30 Section 1. Section **20A-7-203** is amended to read:

31 **20A-7-203. Form of initiative petition and signature sheets.**

32 (1) (a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following  
33 form:

34 "INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable \_\_\_\_, Lieutenant Governor:

35 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the following proposed  
36 law be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for their/its approval or rejection at the  
37 regular general election/session to be held/ beginning on \_\_\_\_\_(month\day\year);

38 Each signer says:

39 I have personally signed this petition;

40 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the  
41 certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and

42 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name.

43 NOTICE TO SIGNERS:

44 Public hearings to discuss this petition were held at: (list dates and locations of public  
45 hearings.)"

46 (b) The sponsors of an initiative shall attach a copy of the proposed law to each  
47 initiative petition.

48 (2) Each signature sheet shall:

49 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

50 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line three-fourths inch from the top, with the space above  
51 that line blank for the purpose of binding;

52 (c) contain the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line;

53 (d) contain the initial fiscal impact estimate's summary statement issued by the  
54 Governor's Office of Management and Budget according to Subsection [20A-7-202.5\(2\)\(b\)](#),  
55 including any update according to Subsection [20A-7-204.1\(4\)](#), and the cost estimate for  
56 printing and distributing information related to the initiative petition according to Subsection  
57 [20A-7-202.5\(3\)](#), printed or typed in not less than 12 point, bold type, at the top of each  
58 signature sheet under the title of the initiative;

59 (e) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet  
60 under the initial fiscal impact estimate's summary statement;

61 (f) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or  
62 typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

63 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any other  
64 name than his own, or knowingly to sign his name more than once for the same measure, or to  
65 sign an initiative petition when he knows he is not a registered voter and knows that he does  
66 not intend to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the  
67 county clerk."; and

68 (g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

69 (i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be five-eighths inch  
70 wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line down  
71 the middle with the left subdivision entitled "Registered" and the right subdivision left untitled;

72 (ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed  
73 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

74 (iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered  
75 Voter";

76 (iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";  
77 and

78 (v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip  
79 Code"; [~~and~~]

80 (h) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may  
81 submit the information described in Subsection (2)(g), contain the following statement printed  
82 or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

83 "By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read  $\hat{H} \rightarrow [i]$  and  $\leftarrow \hat{H}$  understand  
83a  $\hat{H} \rightarrow [i]$ , and support  $\leftarrow \hat{H}$  the  
84 law proposed by this petition."; and

85 [(vi)] (i) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age  
86 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration  
87 records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature  
88 if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you  
89 provide does not match your voter registration records."

90 (3) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following printed or typed  
91 statement:

92 "Verification

93 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_

94 I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that:

95 I am a resident of Utah and am at least 18 years old;

96 All the names that appear in this packet were signed by persons who professed to be the  
97 persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it in my presence;

98 I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address  
99 and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become  
100 registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.

101 I have not paid or given anything of value to any person who signed this petition to  
102 encourage that person to sign it.

103 \_\_\_\_\_

104 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)"

105 (4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially  
106 followed, the initiative petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical  
107 errors.

108 Section 2. Section **20A-7-303** is amended to read:

109 **20A-7-303. Form of referendum petition and signature sheets.**

110 (1) (a) Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the  
111 following form:

112 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, Lieutenant Governor:

113 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that Senate (or House) Bill No.  
114 \_\_\_\_\_, entitled (title of act, and, if the petition is against less than the whole act, set forth here  
115 the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ Session of the  
116 Legislature of the state of Utah, be referred to the people of Utah for their approval or rejection  
117 at a regular general election or a statewide special election;

118 Each signer says:

119 I have personally signed this petition;

120 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the

121 certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and

122 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

123 (b) The sponsors of a referendum shall attach a copy of the law that is the subject of the  
124 referendum to each referendum petition.

125 (2) Each signature sheet shall:

126 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

127 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [ $\frac{3}{4}$ ] three-fourths inch from the top, with the space  
128 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

129 (c) contain the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line;

130 (d) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet  
131 under the title of the referendum;

132 (e) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or  
133 typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

134 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to sign any referendum petition with any other  
135 name than his own, or knowingly to sign his name more than once for the same measure, or to  
136 sign a referendum petition when he knows he is not a registered voter and knows that he does  
137 not intend to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the  
138 county clerk.";

139 (f) contain horizontally ruled lines, [ $\frac{3}{8}$ ] three-eighths inch apart under the "Warning"  
140 statement required by this section; and

141 (g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

142 (i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be [ $\frac{5}{8}$ ] five-eighths  
143 inch wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line  
144 down the middle;

145 (ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed  
146 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

147 (iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered  
148 Voter";

149 (iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";  
150 and

151 (v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip

152 Code"; [~~and~~]

153 (h) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may  
154 submit the information described in Subsection (2)(g), contain the following statement printed  
155 or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

156 "By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read and understand the law this  
157 petition seeks to overturn."; and

158 [~~(vi)~~] (i) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age  
159 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration  
160 records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature  
161 if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you  
162 provide does not match your voter registration records."

163 (3) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following printed or  
164 typed statement:

165 "Verification  
166 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_  
167 I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that:  
168 I am a Utah resident and am at least 18 years old;

169 All the names that appear in this packet were signed by persons who professed to be the  
170 persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it in my presence;

171 I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address  
172 and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become  
173 registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.

174 \_\_\_\_\_  
175 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)"

176 (4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially  
177 followed, the referendum petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical  
178 errors.

179 Section 3. Section **20A-7-503** is amended to read:

180 **20A-7-503. Form of initiative petitions and signature sheets.**

181 (1) (a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following  
182 form:

183 "INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, County Clerk/City Recorder/Town  
184 Clerk:

185 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the following proposed  
186 law be submitted to: the legislative body for its approval or rejection at its next meeting; and  
187 the legal voters of the county/city/town, if the legislative body rejects the proposed law or takes  
188 no action on it.

189 Each signer says:

190 I have personally signed this petition;

191 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the  
192 certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and

193 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

194 (b) The sponsors of an initiative shall attach a copy of the proposed law to each  
195 initiative petition.

196 (2) Each signature sheet shall:

197 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

198 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [3/4] three-fourths inch from the top, with the space  
199 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

200 (c) contain the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line;

201 (d) contain the initial fiscal impact estimate's summary statement issued by the budget  
202 officer according to Subsection [20A-7-502.5\(2\)\(b\)](#) and the cost estimate for printing and  
203 distributing information related to the initiative petition according to Subsection  
204 [20A-7-502.5\(3\)](#) printed or typed in not less than 12-point, bold type, at the top of each  
205 signature sheet under the title of the initiative;

206 (e) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet  
207 under the initial fiscal impact estimate's summary statement;

208 (f) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or  
209 typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

210 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any other  
211 name than his own, or knowingly to sign his name more than once for the same measure, or to  
212 sign an initiative petition when he knows he is not a registered voter and knows that he does  
213 not intend to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the

214 county clerk.";

215 (g) contain horizontally ruled lines~~[-3/8]~~ three-eighths inch apart under the "Warning"  
216 statement required by this section;

217 (h) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

218 (i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be ~~[5/8]~~ five-eighths  
219 inch wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only", and be subdivided with a light vertical line  
220 down the middle with the left subdivision entitled "Registered" and the right subdivision left  
221 untitled;

222 (ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed  
223 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

224 (iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered  
225 Voter";

226 (iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";  
227 and

228 (v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip  
229 Code"; ~~[and]~~

230 (i) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may  
231 submit the information described in Subsection (2)(h), contain the following statement printed  
232 or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

233 "By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read ~~it~~ ~~and~~ understand  
233a ~~it~~ ~~and support~~ the  
234 law proposed by this petition."; and

235 ~~[(vi)]~~ (j) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age  
236 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration  
237 records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature  
238 if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you  
239 provide does not match your voter registration records."~~[-and]~~

240 ~~[(i)]~~ (3) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the following [statement,]  
241 printed or typed [upon the last page of each initiative packet] statement:

242 "Verification  
243 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_

244 I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that:



245 I am a resident of Utah and am at least 18 years old;

246 All the names that appear in this initiative packet were signed by persons who professed  
247 to be the persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it in my  
248 presence;

249 I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address  
250 and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become  
251 registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.

252 \_\_\_\_\_ "

253 [(3)] (4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially  
254 followed, the initiative petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical  
255 errors.

256 Section 4. Section **20A-7-603** is amended to read:

257 **20A-7-603. Form of referendum petition and signature sheets.**

258 (1) (a) Each proposed referendum petition shall be printed in substantially the  
259 following form:

260 "REFERENDUM PETITION To the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, County Clerk/City  
261 Recorder/Town Clerk:

262 We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully order that Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_,  
263 entitled (title of ordinance, and, if the petition is against less than the whole ordinance, set forth  
264 here the part or parts on which the referendum is sought), passed by the \_\_\_\_\_ be referred to the  
265 voters for their approval or rejection at the regular/municipal general election to be held on  
266 \_\_\_\_\_(month\day\year);

267 Each signer says:

268 I have personally signed this petition;

269 I am registered to vote in Utah or intend to become registered to vote in Utah before the  
270 certification of the petition names by the county clerk; and

271 My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name."

272 (b) The sponsors of a referendum shall attach a copy of the law that is the subject of the  
273 referendum to each referendum petition.

274 (2) Each signature sheet shall:

275 (a) be printed on sheets of paper 8-1/2 inches long and 11 inches wide;

276 (b) be ruled with a horizontal line [ $\frac{3}{4}$ ] three-fourths inch from the top, with the space  
277 above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

278 (c) contain the title of the referendum printed below the horizontal line;

279 (d) contain the word "Warning" printed or typed at the top of each signature sheet  
280 under the title of the referendum;

281 (e) contain, to the right of the word "Warning," the following statement printed or  
282 typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

283 "It is a class A misdemeanor for anyone to sign any referendum petition with any other  
284 name than his own, or knowingly to sign his name more than once for the same measure, or to  
285 sign a referendum petition when he knows he is not a registered voter and knows that he does  
286 not intend to become registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the  
287 county clerk.";

288 (f) contain horizontally ruled lines[ $\frac{3}{8}$ ] three-eighths inch apart under the "Warning"  
289 statement required by this section;

290 (g) be vertically divided into columns as follows:

291 (i) the first column shall appear at the extreme left of the sheet, be [ $\frac{5}{8}$ ] five-eighths  
292 inch wide, be headed with "For Office Use Only," and be subdivided with a light vertical line  
293 down the middle;

294 (ii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed  
295 Name (must be legible to be counted)";

296 (iii) the next column shall be 2-1/2 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered  
297 Voter";

298 (iv) the next column shall be one inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)";  
299 and

300 (v) the final column shall be 4-3/8 inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip  
301 Code"; [~~and~~]

302 (h) spanning the sheet horizontally beneath each row on which a registered voter may  
303 submit the information described in Subsection (2)(g), contain the following statement printed  
304 or typed in not less than eight-point, single-leaded type:

305 "By signing this petition, you are stating that you have read and understand the law this  
306 petition seeks to overturn."; and

307 [~~(vi)~~] (i) at the bottom of the sheet, contain the following statement: "Birth date or age  
308 information is not required, but it may be used to verify your identity with voter registration  
309 records. If you choose not to provide it, your signature may not be verified as a valid signature  
310 if you change your address before petition signatures are verified or if the information you  
311 provide does not match your voter registration records."~~;~~~~and~~]

312 [~~(h)~~] (3) The final page of each referendum packet shall contain the following  
313 [~~statement,~~] printed or typed [~~upon the last page of the referendum packet~~] statement:

314 "Verification  
315 State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_  
316 I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that:  
317 I am a resident of Utah and am at least 18 years old;

318 All the names that appear in this referendum packet were signed by persons who  
319 professed to be the persons whose names appear in it, and each of them signed his name on it  
320 in my presence;

321 I believe that each has printed and signed his name and written his post office address  
322 and residence correctly, and that each signer is registered to vote in Utah or intends to become  
323 registered to vote before the certification of the petition names by the county clerk.

324 \_\_\_\_\_"

325 [~~(3)~~] (4) The forms prescribed in this section are not mandatory, and, if substantially  
326 followed, the referendum petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical  
327 errors.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 2-20-14 2:32 PM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**