

PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Coleman Passes Bill to Strengthen the Ballot Process

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Senate today passed a measure sponsored by Sen. Maida Coleman, D-St. Louis, that gives election authorities more time to verify initiative and referendum petition signatures. Current law provides two weeks for the verification process; Senate Bill 50 extends the timeframe to 30 days.

“Last session we passed an election reform measure that puts Missouri in line with Federal regulations,” Sen. Coleman said. “However, the issue of the time limit put on petitions was not addressed. The initiative process gives the people the power to put any issue on the ballot whether the Legislature wants it voted on or not.”

Senate Bill 50 now moves on to the House of Representatives. Passage in both houses sends the measure to the governor’s desk to be signed into law.

“The initiative petition process is not an easy one,” Sen. Coleman said. “It requires a large number of signatures and a lot of footwork. By allowing more verification time, this bill helps put the voting process into the hands of the people it governs.”

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Committees:

Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources – Appropriations –
Joint Committee on Correctional Institutions – Financial and Governmental Organization,
Veterans' Affairs and Elections – Gubernatorial Appointments