

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]

SENATE BILL NO. 623

92ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2003

1912S.01T

AN ACT

To repeal sections 116.175 and 116.190, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to challenges to fiscal notes and fiscal note summaries.

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

Section A. Sections 116.175 and 116.190, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 116.175 and 116.190, to read as follows:

116.175. 1. Except as provided in section 116.155, upon receipt from the secretary of state's office of any petition sample sheet, joint resolution or bill, the auditor shall assess the fiscal impact of the proposed measure. The state auditor may consult with the state departments, local government entities, the general assembly and others with knowledge pertinent to the cost of the proposal. Proponents or opponents of any proposed measure may submit to the state auditor a proposed statement of fiscal impact estimating the cost of the proposal in a manner consistent with the standards of the governmental accounting standards board and section 23.140, RSMo, provided that all such proposals are received by the state auditor within ten days of his or her receipt of the proposed measure from the secretary of state.

2. Within twenty days of receipt of a petition sample sheet, joint resolution or bill from the secretary of state, the state auditor shall prepare a fiscal note and a fiscal note summary for the proposed measure and forward both to the attorney general.

3. The fiscal note and fiscal note summary shall state the measure's estimated cost or savings, if any, to state or local governmental entities. The fiscal note summary shall contain no more than fifty words, excluding articles, which shall summarize the fiscal note in language neither argumentative nor likely to create prejudice either for or against the proposed measure.

4. The attorney general shall, within ten days of receipt of the fiscal note and the fiscal note summary, approve the legal content and form of the fiscal note summary prepared by the

state auditor and shall forward notice of such approval to the state auditor.

5. If the attorney general or the circuit court of Cole County determines that the fiscal note or the fiscal note summary do not satisfy the requirements of this section, the fiscal note and the fiscal note summary shall be returned to the auditor for revision. A fiscal note or fiscal note summary that does not satisfy the requirements of this section also shall not satisfy the requirements of section 116.180.

116.190. 1. Any citizen who wishes to challenge the official ballot title or the fiscal note prepared for a proposed constitutional amendment submitted by the general assembly, by initiative petition, or by constitutional convention, or for a statutory initiative or referendum measure, may bring an action in the circuit court of Cole County. The action must be brought within ten days after the official ballot title is certified by the secretary of state in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

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

3. The petition shall state the reason or reasons why the **summary statement portion of the** official ballot title is insufficient or unfair and shall request a different **summary statement portion of the** official ballot title. **Alternatively, the petition shall state the reasons why the fiscal note or the fiscal note summary portion of the official ballot title is insufficient or unfair and shall request a different fiscal note or fiscal note summary portion of the official ballot title.**

4. The action shall be placed at the top of the civil docket. **Insofar as the action challenges the summary statement portion of the official ballot title**, the court shall consider the petition, hear arguments, and in its decision certify the **summary statement portion of the** official ballot title to the secretary of state. **Insofar as the action challenges the fiscal note or the fiscal note summary portion of the official ballot title**, the court shall consider the petition, hear arguments, and in its decision, either certify the **fiscal note or the fiscal note summary portion of the official ballot title to the secretary of state or remand the fiscal note or the fiscal note summary to the auditor for preparation of a new fiscal note or fiscal note summary pursuant to the procedures set forth in section 116.175.** Any party to the suit may appeal to the supreme court within ten days after a circuit court decision. In making the legal notice to election authorities under section 116.240, **and for the purposes of section 116.180**, the secretary of state shall certify

the language which the court certifies to him.

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