FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 149

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ONDER.

0502S.02I

AN ACT

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

To repeal sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.090, 116.130, 116.160, 116.230, 116.270, 116.332, and 116.334, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof eleven new sections relating to the petition process for amending the law, with penalty provisions and a delayed effective date.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows: Sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.090, Section A. 116.130, 116.160, 116.230, 116.270, 116.332, and 116.334, RSMo, 2 3 are repealed and eleven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.045, 116.050, 4 116.090, 116.130, 116.160, 116.230, 116.270, 116.332, and 5 6 116.334, to read as follows: 116.030. The following shall be substantially the form 2 of each page of referendum petitions on any law passed by 3 the general assembly of the state of Missouri: 4 County 5 Page No. 6 It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding 7 the provisions of section 560.021, RSMo, to the 8 contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one 9 year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any 10 referendum petition with any name other than his or her 11 12 own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

13

```
petition when such person knows he or she is not a
14
15
       registered voter.
16
                        PETITION FOR REFERENDUM
       To the Honorable , Secretary of State for the
17
18
       state of Missouri:
19
       We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of
20
      Missouri and County (or City of St. Louis),
       respectfully order that the Senate (or House) Bill No.
21
       entitled (title of law), passed by the
22
       general assembly of the state of Missouri, at the
23
24
       regular (or special) session of the general
       assembly, shall be referred to the voters of the state
25
       of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the
26
       general election to be held on the _____ day of ____,
27
       , unless the general assembly shall designate
28
       another date, and each for himself or herself says: I
29
30
       have personally signed this petition; I am a registered
31
       voter of the state of Missouri and County (or
32
       City of St. Louis); my registered voting address and the
       name of the city, town or village in which I live are
33
       correctly written after my name.
34
                    (Official Ballot title)
35
                        CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT
36
37
       State Of Missouri,
       County Of ____
38
39
       I, , being first duly sworn, say (print or type
40
       names of signers)
41
          NAME
                    DATE
                           REGISTERED
                                         7.TP
                                              CONGR.
                                                        NAME
                   SIGNED VOTING ADDRESS CODE DIST.
42
43
       (Signature)
                            (Street)
                                                      (Printed
44
                             (City,
                                                         or
45
                             Town or
                                                       Typed)
46
                            Village)
47
               (Here follow numbered lines for signers)
48
       signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of
       them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I
49
      believe that each has stated his or her name, registered
50
```

SB 149

51 52 53	voting address and city, town or village correctly, and that each signer is a registered voter of the state of Missouri and County.							
54 55 56 57 58	FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY.							
59 60 61	I am at least 18 years of age. I do do not (check one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer							
62								
63	Signature of Affiant							
64	(Person obtaining signatures)							
65								
66	(Printed Name of Affiant)							
67								
68	Address of Affiant							
69 70	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, A.D							
71								
72	Signature of Notary							
73	Address of Notary							
74	Notary Public (Seal)							
75	My commission expires							
76	If this form is followed substantially and the requirements							
77	of [section] sections 116.045, 116.050, and [section]							
78	116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding							
79	clerical and merely technical errors.							
	116.040. The following shall be substantially the form							
2	of each page of each petition for any law or amendment to							

3

3	the Constitution of the state of Missouri proposed by the							
4	initiative:							
5	County							
6	Page No							
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section 560.021, RSMo, to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any initiative petition with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not a registered voter.							
17	INITIATIVE PETITION							
18 19	To the Honorable, Secretary of State for the state of Missouri:							
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33	We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri and County (or City of St. Louis), respectfully order that the following proposed law (or amendment to the constitution) shall be submitted to the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the general election to be held on the day of, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a registered voter of the state of Missouri and County (or City of St. Louis); my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or villagin which I live are correctly written after my name.							
34	(Official Ballot title) CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT							
35	State Of Missouri,							
36	County Of							
37 38	I,, being first duly sworn, say (print or type names of signers)							

39 40	NAME	DATE SIGNED		TERED ADDRESS			NAME		
41 42	(Signature)		(Street) (City,			(Printed or		
43 44	Town or Typed) Village)								
45	(Here follow numbered lines for signers)								
46 47 48 49 50 51	signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her name, registered voting address and city, town or village correctly, and that each signer is a registered voter of the state of Missouri and County.								
52 53 54 55 56	FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY.								
57 58 59	I am at least 18 years of age. I do do not (check one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer								
60									
61				Signatur	e of A	Affiant			
62				(Person	obtair	ning sig	natures)		
63									
64				(Printed	Name	of Affi	ant)		
65									
66				Address	of Aff	fiant			
67 68	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, A.D								
69									
70				Signatur	e of N	Notary			
71				Address	of Not	ary			

72 Notary Public (Seal)

73 My commission expires _____

- 74 If this form is followed substantially and the requirements
- 75 of [section] **sections 116.045**, 116.050, and [section]
- 76 116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding
- 77 clerical and merely technical errors.
 - 116.045. Initiative and referendum petition signature
- 2 pages shall be printed on a form as prescribed by the
- 3 secretary of state, which shall include all of the
- 4 information and statements set forth in section 116.030 or
- 5 116.040, as applicable, and comply with section 116.050.
- 6 The form shall be made available in electronic format for
- 7 printing and circulating petitions.
- 116.050. 1. Initiative and referendum petitions filed
- 2 under the provisions of this chapter shall consist of pages
- 3 of a uniform size. Each page, excluding the text of the
- 4 measure, shall be no larger than eight and one-half by
- 5 fourteen inches. The text of the proposed measure shall be
- 6 in a font that is not smaller than twelve point, Times New
- 7 Roman, and have a top, bottom, left, and right margin of not
- 8 less than one inch. Page numbers may appear in the bottom
- 9 margin. Each page of an initiative petition shall be
- 10 attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of the
- 11 proposed measure. Each page of a referendum petition shall
- 12 be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of
- 13 the measure on which the referendum is sought.
- 14 2. The secretary of state shall collect an initiative
- 15 and referendum petition filing fee of five hundred dollars
- 16 for each petition sample sheet filed. An additional filing
- 17 fee of twenty-five dollars shall be collected for each page

- 18 of text of the measure in excess of ten pages. The filing
- 19 fee shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to
- 20 the secretary of state's petition publications fund
- 21 established under section 116.270. The filing fee shall be
- 22 refunded from the fund to the person designated as the
- 23 recipient of notices pursuant to section 116.332 if the
- 24 initiative or referendum petition is certified pursuant to
- 25 section 116.150. The secretary of state shall reject any
- 26 petition sample sheet that is not accompanied by the
- 27 required fee.
- 28 3. The full and correct text of all initiative and
- 29 referendum petition measures shall:
- 30 (1) Contain all matter which is to be deleted included
- 31 in its proper place enclosed in brackets and all new matter
- 32 shown underlined;
- 33 (2) Include all sections of existing law or of the
- 34 constitution which would be repealed by the measure; and
- 35 (3) Otherwise conform to the provisions of [Article
- 36 III, Section 28 and] Article III, [Section] Sections 28, 49,
- 37 50, 51, and 52(a) of the Missouri Constitution and those of
- 38 this chapter.
- 39 4. The full and correct text of all initiative
- 40 petition measures shall not purport to:
- 41 (1) Declare any federal statute, regulation, executive
- 42 order, or court decision to be void or in violation of the
- 43 United States Constitution;
- 44 (2) Amend any federal law or the United States
- 45 Constitution; or
- 46 (3) Accomplish an act that the United States
- 47 Constitution requires to be accomplished by the general
- 48 assembly.

116.090. 1. Any person who commits any of the following actions is guilty of the crime of petition signature fraud:

- 4 (1) Signs any name other than his or her own to any 5 petition, or who knowingly signs his or her name more than 6 once for the same measure for the same election, or who 7 knows he or she is not at the time of signing or circulating 8 the same a Missouri registered voter and a resident of this 9 state; or
- 10 (2) Intentionally submits petition signature sheets
 11 with the knowledge that the person whose name appears on the
 12 signature sheet did not actually sign the petition; or
- (3) Causes a voter to sign a petition other than theone the voter intended to sign; or
 - (4) Forges or falsifies signatures; or

15

- 16 (5) Knowingly accepts or offers money or anything of 17 value to another person in exchange for a signature on a 18 petition.
- 19 2. Any person who knowingly causes a petition circulator's signatures to be submitted for counting, and 20 who either knows that such circulator has violated 21 subsection 1 of this section or, after receiving notice of 22 facts indicating that such person may have violated 23 24 subsection 1 of this section, causes the signatures to be submitted with reckless indifference as to whether such 25 26 circulator has complied with subsection 1 of this section, 27 shall also be deemed to have committed the crime of petition 28 signature fraud.
- 3. A person who violates subsection 1 or 2 of this section, shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section [560.021] 558.002 to the contrary, by

SB 149 9

14

15

16

33 a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both. 34

- 35 4. Any person employed by or serving as an election authority, that has reasonable cause to suspect a person has 36 committed petition signature fraud, shall immediately report 37 or cause a report to be made to the appropriate prosecuting 38 39 authorities. Failure to so report or cause a report to be 40 made shall be a class A misdemeanor.
- The secretary of state may send copies of 116.130. 1. 2 petition pages to election authorities to verify that the persons whose names are listed as signers to the petition 3 are registered voters. Such verification may either be of 4 5 each signature or by random sampling as provided in section 116.120, as the secretary shall direct. If copies of the 6 7 petition pages are sent to an election authority for 8 verification, such copies shall be sent pursuant to the 9 following schedule:
- Copies of all pages from not less than one 10 petition shall be received in the office of the election 11 authority not later than two weeks after the petition is 12 filed in the office of secretary of state; 13
- (2) Copies of all pages of a total of three petitions shall be received in the office of the election authority not later than three weeks after the petition is filed in the office of the secretary of state; 17
- 18 If more than three petitions are filed, all copies 19 of petition pages, including those petitions selected for verification by random sample pursuant to section 116.120, 20 shall be received in the office of the election authority 21 22 not later than the fourth week after the petition is filed in the office of the secretary of state. 23

- 24 Each election authority shall check the signatures against
- voter registration records in the election authority's
- 26 jurisdiction, but the election authority shall count as
- 27 valid only the signatures of persons registered as voters in
- 28 the county named in the circulator's affidavit. Signatures
- 29 shall not be counted as valid if they have been struck
- 30 through or crossed out. Signatures not in black or blue ink
- 31 shall be counted as invalid without verification.
- 32 2. If the election authority is requested to verify
- 33 the petition by random sampling, such verification shall be
- 34 completed and certified not later than thirty days from the
- 35 date that the election authority receives the petition from
- 36 the secretary of state. If the election authority is to
- 37 verify each signature, such verification [must] shall be
- 38 completed, certified and delivered to the secretary of state
- 39 by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July prior to the
- 40 election, or in the event of complete verification of
- 41 signatures after a failed random sample, full verification
- 42 shall be completed, certified and delivered to the secretary
- 43 of state by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July or by
- 44 5:00 p.m. on the Friday of the fifth week after receipt of
- 45 the signatures by the local election authority, whichever is
- 46 later.
- 47 3. If the election authority or the secretary of state
- 48 determines that the congressional district number written
- 49 after the signature of any voter is not the congressional
- 50 district of which the voter is a resident, the election
- 51 authority or the secretary of state shall correct the
- 52 congressional district number on the petition page. Failure
- of a voter to give the voter's correct congressional
- 54 district number shall not by itself be grounds for not
- 55 counting the voter's signature.

65

66

67

68

6970

71

72

73

74

75

- 56 The election authority shall return the copies of the petition pages to the secretary of state with 57 58 annotations regarding any invalid or questionable signatures which the election authority has been asked to check by the 59 60 secretary of state. The election authority shall verify the number of pages received for that county, and also certify 61 62 the total number of valid signatures of voters from each 63 congressional district which the election authority has been asked to check by the secretary of state. 64
 - 5. The secretary of state is authorized to adopt rules to ensure uniform, complete, and accurate checking of petition signatures either by actual count or random sampling. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant to this section shall become effective unless it has been promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536.
 - 6. After a period of three years from the time of submission of the petitions to the secretary of state, the secretary of state, if the secretary determines that retention of such petitions is no longer necessary, may destroy such petitions.

116.160. 1. If the general assembly adopts a joint 2 resolution proposing a constitutional amendment or a bill 3 without a fiscal note summary, which is to be referred to a 4 vote of the people, after receipt of such resolution or bill 5 the secretary of state shall promptly forward the resolution 6 or bill to the state auditor. If the general assembly 7 adopts a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment or a bill without an official summary statement, 8 9 which is to be referred to a vote of the people, within twenty days after receipt of the resolution or bill, the 10 secretary of state shall prepare and transmit to the 11 attorney general a summary statement of the measure as the 12

- 13 proposed summary statement. The secretary of state may seek
- 14 the advice of the legislator who introduced the
- 15 constitutional amendment or bill and the speaker of the
- 16 house or the president pro tem of the legislative chamber
- 17 that originated the measure. The summary statement may be
- 18 distinct from the legislative title of the proposed
- 19 constitutional amendment or bill. The attorney general
- 20 shall within ten days approve the legal content and form of
- 21 the proposed statement.
- 22 2. The official summary statement shall contain no
- 23 more than one hundred fifty words[, excluding articles].
- 24 The title shall be a true and impartial statement of the
- 25 purposes of the proposed measure in language neither
- 26 intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice
- 27 either for or against the proposed measure.
 - 116.230. 1. The secretary of state shall prepare
- 2 sample ballots in the following form.
- 3 2. The top of the ballot shall read:
- 4 "OFFICIAL BALLOT STATE OF MISSOURI"
- 5 3. When constitutional amendments are submitted, the
- 6 first heading shall read:
- 7 "CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS"
- 8 There shall follow the numbers assigned under section
- 9 116.210 the official ballot titles prepared under section
- 10 116.160 or 116.334, and the fiscal note summaries prepared
- 11 under section 116.170. Constitutional amendments proposed by
- 12 the general assembly shall be designated as "Proposed by the
- 13 general assembly". Constitutional amendments proposed by
- 14 initiative petition shall be designated "Proposed by
- 15 initiative petition". Constitutional amendments proposed by

- 16 constitutional convention shall be designated as "Proposed
- 17 by constitutional convention".
- 4. When statutory measures are submitted, the next
- 19 heading shall read:
- 20 "STATUTORY MEASURES"
- 21 There shall follow the letters assigned under section
- 22 116.220, the official ballot titles prepared under section
- 23 116.160 or 116.334, and the fiscal note summaries prepared
- 24 under section 116.170. Statutory initiative measures shall
- 25 be designated "Proposed by initiative petition". Referendum
- 26 measures shall be designated "Referendum ordered by
- petition".
- 28 5. Immediately following the official ballot title,
- 29 the words "Shall the measure summarized be approved?" shall
- 30 appear with the options to vote "YES" or "NO".
 - 116.270. 1. [There is hereby created a "Publications
- 2 Fund" which shall be used only to pay printing, publication,
- 3 and other expenses incurred in submitting statewide ballot
- 4 measures to the voters.
- 5 2. The secretary of state shall certify to the
- 6 commissioner of administration all valid claims for payment
- 7 from the publications fund. On receiving the certified
- 8 claims, the commissioner of administration shall issue
- 9 warrants on the state treasurer payable to each individual
- 10 out of the publications fund] There is hereby created in the
- 11 state treasury the "Secretary of State's Petition
- 12 Publications Fund", which shall consist of money collected
- 13 under section 116.050. The state treasurer shall be
- 14 custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170
- and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements.
- 16 The fund shall be a dedicated fund and money in the fund

- 17 shall be used solely by the secretary of state for the
- purpose of making refunds as set forth in section 116.050
- 19 and to pay publication expenses incurred in submitting
- 20 statewide ballot measures to the voters. Any balance in the
- 21 fund shall be used for the purposes set forth herein before
- 22 using a general revenue appropriation for the same purpose.
- 23 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to
- 24 the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of
- 25 the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general
- 26 revenue fund.
- 27 3. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund
- 28 in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any
- 29 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
- 30 credited to the fund.
 - 116.332. 1. Before a constitutional amendment
- 2 petition, a statutory initiative petition, or a referendum
- 3 petition may be circulated for signatures, a sample sheet
- 4 [must] shall be submitted to the secretary of state in the
- 5 form in which it will be circulated. Sample initiative
- 6 petition sheets shall be filed no earlier than twelve weeks
- 7 following a general election. When a person submits a
- 8 sample sheet of a petition he or she shall designate to the
- 9 secretary of state the name and address of the person to
- 10 whom any notices shall be sent pursuant to sections 116.140
- and 116.180 and, if a committee or person, except the
- 12 individual submitting the sample sheet, is funding any
- 13 portion of the drafting or submitting of the sample sheet,
- 14 the person submitting the sample sheet shall submit a copy
- 15 of the filed statement of committee organization required
- under subsection 5 of section 130.021 showing the date the
- 17 statement was filed. The secretary of state shall refer a
- 18 copy of the petition sheet to the attorney general for [his]

19 approval and to the state auditor for purposes of preparing

- 20 a fiscal note and fiscal note summary. The secretary of
- 21 state and attorney general [must] shall each review the
- 22 petition for [sufficiency as to form] compliance with
- 23 section 116.050 and article III, sections 28, 49, 50, 51,
- 24 and 52(a) of the Missouri Constitution and approve or reject
- 25 [the form of] the petition, stating the reasons for
- 26 rejection, if any.
- 2. Within two business days of receipt of any such
- 28 sample sheet, the office of the secretary of state shall
- 29 conspicuously post on its website the text of the proposed
- 30 measure, a disclaimer stating that such text may not
- 31 constitute the full and correct text as required under
- 32 section 116.050, and the name of the person or organization
- 33 submitting the sample sheet. The secretary of state's
- 34 failure to comply with such posting shall be considered a
- 35 violation of chapter 610 and subject to the penalties
- 36 provided under subsection 3 of section 610.027. The posting
- 37 shall be removed within three days of either the withdrawal
- 38 of the petition under section 116.115 or the rejection for
- 39 any reason of the petition.
- 40 3. Upon receipt of a petition from the office of the
- 41 secretary of state, the attorney general shall examine the
- 42 petition [as to form] and determine whether it complies with
- 43 section 116.050 and article III, sections 28, 49, 50, 51,
- 44 and 52(a) of the Missouri Constitution. If the petition is
- 45 rejected [as to form], the attorney general shall forward
- 46 his or her comments to the secretary of state within ten
- 47 days after receipt of the petition by the attorney general.
- 48 If the petition is approved [as to form], the attorney
- 49 general shall forward his or her approval [as to form] to

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

18

19 20

50 the secretary of state within ten days after receipt of the
51 petition by the attorney general.

4. The secretary of state shall review the comments and statements of the attorney general [as to form] and make a final decision as to the approval or rejection [of the form] of the petition. The secretary of state shall send written notice to the person who submitted the petition sheet of the approval within fifteen days after submission of the petition sheet. The secretary of state shall send written notice if the petition has been rejected, together with reasons for rejection, within fifteen days after submission of the petition sheet.

1. If the petition [form] is approved 116.334. pursuant to section 116.332, the secretary of state shall 2 3 make a copy of the sample petition available on the 4 secretary of state's website. For a period of fifteen days 5 after the petition is approved [as to form] pursuant to section 116.332, the secretary of state shall accept public 6 7 comments regarding the proposed measure and provide copies of such comments upon request. Within twenty-three days of 8 9 receipt of such approval, the secretary of state shall 10 prepare and transmit to the attorney general a summary statement of the measure which shall be a concise statement 11 12 not exceeding one hundred fifty words. This statement shall 13 [be in the form of a question using] use language neither 14 intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice 15 either for or against the proposed measure. The attorney general shall within ten days approve the legal content and 16 17 form of the proposed statement.

2. Signatures obtained prior to the date the official ballot title is certified by the secretary of state shall not be counted. If a court orders a change that

- 21 substantially alters the content of the official ballot
- 22 title under subsection 4 of section 116.190 then all
- 23 signatures gathered before such change occurred shall be
- 24 invalidated, regardless of whether those signatures were
- 25 gathered on petition pages that displayed what was
- 26 previously the official ballot title as certified by the
- 27 secretary of state.
- 28 3. Signatures for statutory initiative petitions shall
- 29 be filed not later than six months prior to the general
- 30 election during which the petition's ballot measure is
- 31 submitted for a vote, and shall also be collected not
- 32 earlier than the day after the day upon which the previous
- 33 general election was held.

Section B. Section A of this act shall become

2 effective on November 9, 2022.

✓