

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 322

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HILL.

0264H.021

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 116.155 and 116.160, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to ballot summaries for initiatives and referendums.

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

Section A. Sections 116.155 and 116.160, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 116.155 and 116.160, to read as follows:

116.155. 1. The general assembly may include the official summary statement and a fiscal note summary in any statewide ballot measure that it refers to the voters.

2. The official summary statement approved by the general assembly shall, taken together with the approved fiscal note summary, be the official ballot title and such summary statement shall contain no more than fifty words, excluding articles. The title shall be a true and impartial statement of the purposes of the proposed measure in language neither intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice either for or against the proposed measure.

3. The fiscal note summary approved by the general assembly shall contain no more than fifty words, excluding articles, which shall summarize the fiscal note prepared for the measure in language neither argumentative nor likely to create prejudice for or against the proposed measure.

4. **The phrase "The word count of the bill underlying this ballot measure is:" followed by the word count of the bill that referred the ballot measure to voters shall appear in bold letters immediately following the summary statement and fiscal note summary on the ballot. This phrase shall not count toward the word limit for the summary statement and fiscal note summary.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

116.160. 1. If the general assembly adopts a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment or a bill without a fiscal note summary, which is to be referred to a vote of the people, after receipt of such resolution or bill the secretary of state shall promptly forward the resolution or bill to the state auditor. If the general assembly adopts a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment or a bill without an official summary statement, which is to be referred to a vote of the people, within twenty days after receipt of the resolution or bill, the secretary of state shall prepare and transmit to the attorney general a summary statement of the measure as the proposed summary statement. The secretary of state may seek the advice of the legislator who introduced the constitutional amendment or bill and the speaker of the house or the president pro tem of the legislative chamber that originated the measure. The summary statement may be distinct from the legislative title of the proposed constitutional amendment or bill. The attorney general shall within ten days approve the legal content and form of the proposed statement.

2. The official summary statement shall contain no more than fifty words, excluding articles. The title shall be a true and impartial statement of the purposes of the proposed measure in language neither intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice either for or against the proposed measure.

3. The phrase "The word count of the bill underlying this ballot measure is:" followed by the word count of the bill that referred the ballot measure to voters shall appear in bold letters immediately following the summary statement and fiscal note summary on the ballot. This phrase shall not count toward the word limit for the summary statement and fiscal note summary.

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