FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[PERFECTED]

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NOS. 575 & 551

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1511H.02P JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.080, 116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 116.153, 116.190, 116.200, 116.332, and 116.334, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twelve new sections relating to initiative petitions and referendums, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.080, 116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 2 116.153, 116.190, 116.200, 116.332, and 116.334, RSMo, are repealed and twelve new 3 sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.045, 116.050, 116.080, 116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 116.190, 116.200, 116.332, and 116.334, to read as 5 follows: 116.030. The following shall be substantially the form of each page of referendum petitions on any law passed by the general assembly of the state of Missouri: County ____ 3 Page No. 4 5 It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section [560.021] 558.002, RSMo, to the contrary, for a term of 6 7 imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to 8 exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any referendum 9 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 10 11 election, or to sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not a 12 registered voter.

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.

PETITION FOR REFERENDUM

14	To the Honorable, Secretary of State for the state of Missouri:			
15	We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri and			
16	County (or City of St. Louis), respectfully order that the Senate (or			
17	House) Bill No. entitled (title of law), passed by the			
18	general assembly of the state of Missouri, at the regular (or			
19	special) session of the general assembly, shall be referred to the			
20	voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the			
21	general election to be held on the day of,,			
22	unless the general assembly shall designate another date, and each for			
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24	himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a			
25	registered voter of the state of Missouri and County (or City of			
26	St. Louis); my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or village in which I live are correctly written after my name.			
27				
28	(Official Ballot title) CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT			
29	State Of Missouri,			
30	County Of			
31	I,, being first duly sworn, say (print or type names of signers)			
32	REGISTERED			
33	DATE VOTING ZIP CONGR.			
34	NAME SIGNED ADDRESS CODE DIST. NAME			
35	(Signature) (Street) (City, (Printed or			
36	Town or Village) Typed)			
37	(Here follow numbered lines for signers)			
38	signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his			
39	or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or			
40	her name, registered voting address and city, town or village correctly,			
41	and that each signer is a registered voter of the state of Missouri and			
42	County. FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM			
43	UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS			
44	MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE			
45	NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR PLED			
46	GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY.			
47	I have met the qualifications of section 116.080 and am at least 18			
48	years of age. I do do not (check one) expect to be paid			
49	for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer			

19	the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the				
20	general election to be held on the day of,, and				
21	each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I				
22	am a registered voter of the state of Missouri and County (or				
23	City of St. Louis); my registered voting address and the name of the				
24	city, town or village in which I live are correctly written after my name.				
25	(Official Ballot title)				
26	CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT				
27	State Of Missouri,				
28	County Of				
29	I,, being first duly sworn, say (print or type names of signers)				
30	REGISTERED				
31	DATE VOTING ZIP CONGR.				
32	NAME SIGNED ADDRESS CODE DIST. NAME				
33	(Signature) (Street) (City, (Printed or				
34	Town or				
35	Village) Typed)				
36	(Here follow numbered lines for signers)				
37	signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his				
38	or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or				
39	her name, registered voting address and city, town or village correctly,				
40	and that each signer is a registered voter of the state of Missouri and				
41	County.				
42	FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER				
43	PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME				
44	ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN				
45	CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR PLED GUILTY TO				
46	ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY.				
47	I have met the qualifications of section 116.080 and am at least 18				
48	years of age. I do do not (check one) expect to be paid				
49	for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer				
50	8 1 1 7 1 J				
51	Signature of Affiant				
52	(Person obtaining signatures)				
53	(= : : ::::::::::::::::::::::::::				
54	(Printed Name of Affiant)				
	(======================================				

55			
56		Address of Affiant	
57	Subscribed and sworn to be	fore me this day of, A.D.	_
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59			
60		Signature of Notary	
61		Address of Notary	
62	Notary Public (Seal)		
63	My commission expires		
<i>C</i> A			

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If this form is followed substantially and the requirements of [section] sections 116.045, and [section] 116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding clerical and merely technical errors.

116.045. Initiative petition and referendum petition signature pages shall be printed on a form as prescribed by the secretary of state that shall include all of the information and statements required by section 116.030 or 116.040, as applicable, and comply with section 116.050. The form shall be made available in electronic format to be used for printing petitions for circulating.

116.050. 1. Initiative and referendum petitions filed under the provisions of this chapter shall consist of pages of a uniform size. Each page, excluding the text of the measure, shall be no larger than eight and one-half by fourteen inches. The text of the proposed measure shall be in a font that is not smaller than twelve-point Times New Roman and have a top, bottom, left, and right margin of not less than one inch. Page numbers may appear in the bottom margin. Each page of an initiative petition shall be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of the proposed measure. Each page of a referendum petition shall be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of the measure on which the referendum is sought.

- 2. The full and correct text of all initiative and referendum petition measures shall:
- 11 (1) Contain all matter which is to be deleted included in its proper place enclosed in 12 brackets and all new matter shown underlined;
- 13 (2) Include all sections of existing law or of the constitution which would be repealed 14 by the measure; and
- 15 (3) Otherwise conform to the provisions of [Article III, Section 28 and] Article III, 16 [Section] Sections 28, 49, 50, 51, and 52(a) of the Constitution of Missouri and those of this 17 chapter.

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116.080. 1. Each petition circulator shall be a citizen of the United States, [at least] eighteen years of age or older, a resident of this state or physically present in this state for 3 at least thirty consecutive days prior to the collection of signatures, and registered with 4 the secretary of state. No petition circulator shall be paid anything of value that is based 5 on the number of signatures collected. Signatures collected by any circulator who has not 6 registered with the secretary of state pursuant to this chapter on or before 5:00 p.m. on the 7 final day for filing petitions with the secretary of state shall not be counted. A petition 8 circulator shall be deemed registered at the time such circulator delivers a signed circulator's 9 affidavit pursuant to section 116.030, with respect to a referendum petition, or section 10 116.040, with respect to an initiative petition, to the office of the secretary of state. No person shall qualify as a petition circulator who has been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty 11 to an offense involving forgery under the laws of this state or an offense under the laws of any other jurisdiction if that offense would be considered forgery under the laws of this state. 13

- 2. Each petition circulator shall subscribe and swear to the proper affidavit on each petition page such circulator submits before a notary public commissioned in Missouri. When notarizing a circulator's signature, a notary public shall sign his or her official signature and affix his or her official seal to the affidavit only if the circulator personally appears before the notary and subscribes and swears to the affidavit in his or her presence.
- 3. Any circulator who falsely swears to a circulator's affidavit knowing it to be false is guilty of a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section [560.021] 558.002 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.
- 116.090. 1. Any person who commits any of the following actions is guilty of the crime of petition signature fraud:
- (1) Signs any name other than his or her own to any petition, or who knowingly signs his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or who knows he or she is not at the time of signing or circulating the same a Missouri registered voter and a resident of this state; or
- (2) Intentionally submits petition signature sheets with the knowledge that the person whose name appears on the signature sheet did not actually sign the petition; or
 - (3) Causes a voter to sign a petition other than the one the voter intended to sign; or
 - (4) Forges or falsifies signatures; or
- (5) Knowingly accepts or offers money or anything of value to another person in 11 12 exchange for a signature on a petition.
- 2. Any person who knowingly causes a petition circulator's signatures to be submitted for counting, and who either knows that such circulator has violated subsection 1 of this 14 section or, after receiving notice of facts indicating that such person may have violated

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subsection 1 of this section, causes the signatures to be submitted with reckless indifference as to whether such circulator has complied with subsection 1 of this section, shall also be deemed to have committed the crime of petition 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 a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both.
- 4. Any person employed by or serving as an election authority, that has reasonable cause to suspect a person has committed petition signature fraud, shall immediately report or cause a report to be made to the appropriate prosecuting authorities. Failure to so report or cause a report to be made shall be a class A misdemeanor.
- 116.110. Any voter who has signed an initiative or referendum petition may withdraw
 his or her signature from that petition by submitting to the secretary of state, before the
 petition is filed with the secretary of state, a sworn statement requesting that his or her
 signature be withdrawn and affirming the name of the petition signed, the name the voter used
 when signing the petition, the address of the voter and the county of residence. It is a class A
 misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section [560.021] 558.002 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, to knowingly file a false withdrawal statement with the
 secretary of state.
- 116.130. 1. The secretary of state may send copies of petition pages to election authorities to verify that the persons whose names are listed as signers to the petition are registered voters. Such verification may either be of each signature or by random sampling as provided in section 116.120, as the secretary shall direct. If copies of the petition pages are sent to an election authority for verification, such copies shall be sent pursuant to the following schedule:
 - (1) Copies of all pages from not less than one petition shall be received in the office of the election authority not later than two weeks after the petition is filed in the office of secretary of state;
 - (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;
- 13 (3) If more than three petitions are filed, all copies of petition pages, including those 14 petitions selected for verification by random sample pursuant to section 116.120, shall be 15 received in the office of the election authority not later than the fourth week after the petition 16 is filed in the office of the secretary of state.

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- Each election authority shall check the signatures against voter registration records in the election authority's jurisdiction, but the election authority shall count as valid only the signatures of persons registered as voters in the county named in the circulator's affidavit. Signatures shall not be counted as valid if they have been struck through or crossed out. Signatures shall be recorded using a black or dark ink.
 - 2. If the election authority is requested to verify the petition by random sampling, such verification shall be completed and certified not later than thirty days from the date that the election authority receives the petition from the secretary of state. If the election authority is to verify each signature, such verification [must] shall be completed, certified and delivered to the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July prior to the election, or in the event of complete verification of signatures after a failed random sample, full verification shall be completed, certified and delivered to the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July or by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday of the fifth week after receipt of the signatures by the local election authority, whichever is later.
 - 3. If the election authority or the secretary of state determines that the congressional district number written after the signature of any voter is not the congressional district of which the voter is a resident, the election authority or the secretary of state shall correct the congressional district number on the petition page. Failure of a voter to give the voter's correct congressional district number shall not by itself be grounds for not counting the voter's signature.
 - 4. The election authority shall return the copies of the petition pages to the secretary of state with annotations regarding any invalid or questionable signatures which the election authority has been asked to check by the secretary of state. The election authority shall verify the number of pages received for that county, and also certify the total number of valid signatures of voters from each congressional district which the election authority has been asked to check by the secretary of state.
 - 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.
 - 116.190. 1. Any [citizen] Missouri registered voter 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

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- 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 10 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] the entry of the judgment by the circuit court. 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.
 - 5. Any action brought under this section that is not fully and finally adjudicated within one hundred eighty days of filing, and more than fifty-six days prior to the election in which the measure is to appear, including all appeals, shall be extinguished, unless a court, before the expiration of the foregoing periods, extends such period upon [a] an express finding of good cause for such extension, but no extension shall cause the final adjudication to occur less than eight weeks before the date of the election. Such good cause shall consist only of court-related scheduling issues and shall not include requests for continuance by the parties. No court, including any appellate court, shall have the authority to issue any form of relief after the expiration of the foregoing periods.

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- 116.200. 1. After the secretary of state certifies a petition as sufficient or insufficient, any [eitizen] Missouri registered voter may apply to the circuit court of Cole County to compel [him] the secretary of state to reverse his or her decision. The action must be brought within ten days after the certification is made. All such suits shall be advanced on the court docket and heard and decided by the court as quickly as possible.
 - 2. If the court decides the petition is sufficient, the secretary of state shall certify it as sufficient and attach a copy of the judgment. If the court decides the petition is insufficient, the court shall enjoin the secretary of state from certifying the measure and all other officers from printing the measure on the ballot.
- 3. Any party may appeal within ten days after [a decision is rendered, any party may appeal it to the supreme court] the entry of the judgment by the circuit court.
- 116.332. 1. Before a constitutional amendment petition, a statutory initiative petition, or a referendum petition may be circulated for signatures, a sample sheet [must] shall be submitted to the secretary of state in the form in which it will be circulated. Sample sheets may be submitted to the secretary of state any time after a general election until six months prior to the next general election. When a person submits a sample sheet of a petition he or she shall designate to the secretary of state the name and address of the person to whom any notices shall be sent pursuant to sections 116.140 and 116.180 and, if a committee or person, except the individual submitting the sample sheet, is funding any portion of the drafting or submitting of the sample sheet, the person submitting the sample sheet shall submit a copy of the filed statement of committee organization required under subsection 5 of section 130.021 showing the date the statement was filed. The secretary of state shall refer a copy of the petition sheet to the attorney general for his approval and to the state auditor for purposes of preparing a fiscal note and fiscal note summary. The secretary of state and attorney general [must] shall each review the petition for [sufficiency as to form] compliance with section 116.050 and Article III, Sections 28, 49, 50, 51, and 52(a) of the Constitution of Missouri and approve or reject the form of the petition, stating the reasons for rejection, if any.
- 2. Within two business days of receipt of any such sample sheet, the office of the secretary of state shall conspicuously post on its website the text of the proposed measure, a disclaimer stating that such text may not constitute the full and correct text as required under section 116.050, and the name of the person or organization submitting the sample sheet. The secretary of state's failure to comply with such posting shall be considered a violation of chapter 610 and subject to the penalties provided under subsection 3 of section 610.027. The posting shall be removed within three days of either the withdrawal of the petition under section 116.115 or the rejection for any reason of the petition.

- 3. Upon receipt of a petition from the office of the secretary of state, the attorney general shall examine the petition [as to form] and determine whether it complies with section 116.050 and Article III, Sections 28, 49, 50, 51, and 52(a) of the Constitution of Missouri. If the petition is rejected [as to form], the attorney general shall forward his or her comments to the secretary of state within ten days after receipt of the petition by the attorney general. If the petition is approved [as to form], the attorney general shall forward his or her approval [as to form] to the secretary of state within ten days after receipt of the 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.
- state shall make a copy of the sample petition available on the secretary of state's website.

 For a period of fifteen days after the petition is approved [as to form] under section 116.332,

 the secretary of state shall accept public comments regarding the proposed measure and

 provide copies of such comments upon request. Within twenty-three days of receipt of such
 approval, the secretary of state shall prepare and transmit to the attorney general a summary
 statement of the measure which shall be a concise statement not exceeding one hundred
 words. This statement shall [be in the form of a question using] use language neither
 intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice either for or against the proposed
 measure. The attorney general shall within ten days approve the legal content and 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.
 - 3. Signatures for statutory initiative petitions shall be filed not later than six months prior to the general election during which the petition's ballot measure is submitted for a vote, and shall also be collected not earlier than the day after the day upon which the previous general election was held.

[116.153. Within thirty days of issuing certification that the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures pursuant to section 116.150, the joint committee on legislative research shall hold a public hearing in Jefferson City to take public comments concerning the proposed measure. Such hearing shall be a public meeting under chapter 610. Within five business days after the end of the public hearing, the joint committee on legislative research shall provide a summary of the hearing to the secretary of

- state or his or her designee and the secretary of state shall post a copy of the summary on the website of the office of the secretary of state.]
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