

HB 694 -- ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM
PETITIONS

SPONSOR: Murray

This bill creates a process whereby electronic signatures may be collected in the circulation of an initiative or referendum petition.

The Secretary of State must administer and maintain a website to facilitate the collection of electronic signatures for each initiative and referendum petition that has been approved for circulation.

Voters may choose whether to submit an electronic or manual signature. No circulator signature or notarization is required for electronic signatures.

Voters submitting an electronic signature are required to submit their name, address, county of residence, birth date, assent to the petition document, and a unique identifier provided to each registered voter by the Secretary of State.

Only electronic signatures collected by the website established in this bill will be counted. Electronic signatures will be correlated with the voter as evidenced by a reasonable match with the signature on the registration record.

The Secretary of State must adopt and promulgate the rules and regulations as he or she deems necessary to implement the requirements of this bill, to provide security for the submission of electronic information, and to maintain an audit trail of electronic records.

This bill is similar to HB 588 (2023) and HB 2228 (2024).