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1                               A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to petition process; amending s.  
3           15.21, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.  
4           16.061, F.S.; revising the criteria that the Attorney  
5           General uses when petitioning the Supreme Court for an  
6           advisory opinion related to a proposed revision or  
7           amendment to the State Constitution; amending s.  
8           97.021, F.S.; deleting the definition of the term  
9           "petition circulator"; amending s. 99.092, F.S.;  
10          decreasing the percentages used to calculate the  
11          filing fees and the amount of party assessment for  
12          candidates to public office; requiring the Division of  
13          Elections to create a uniform petition form for  
14          candidates to gather signatures for a candidate  
15          petition; requiring that the form solicit specified  
16          information; requiring that the form include a certain  
17          notice; amending s. 99.095, F.S.; authorizing a  
18          supervisor of elections to verify certain signatures  
19          only if a certain petition form is used; amending s.  
20          99.097, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending  
21          s. 100.371, F.S.; requiring sponsors of an initiative  
22          amendment to register as political committees before  
23          circulating any initiative petition forms to voters;  
24          deleting obsolete language; requiring the division to  
25          assign initiative petitions a petition number and

26 create a certain form; providing requirements for such  
27 form; requiring that the form contain a certain  
28 notice; deleting provisions relating to citizen  
29 challenges of petition circulator registration;  
30 deleting provisions relating to applications for  
31 registration of a petition circulator; requiring the  
32 division to adopt rules; deleting provisions requiring  
33 certain sponsors to submit signed and dated forms;  
34 specifying conditions for signatures on a form to be  
35 verified as valid by a supervisor; requiring the  
36 supervisor to retain signed petition forms instead of  
37 signature forms in a specified manner; requiring the  
38 supervisor to transmit copies of such signed petition  
39 forms promptly to the division upon request; requiring  
40 the supervisors of elections to post the actual cost  
41 of signature verification on their websites annually  
42 on a specified date; specifying that such costs  
43 include costs related to certain actions; requiring  
44 the Secretary of State to rescind a certificate of  
45 ballot position under specified conditions;  
46 authorizing any voter to challenge the issuance of  
47 certificates of ballot position; providing the process  
48 for such challenges; requiring the Secretary of State  
49 to submit a copy of initiative petitions to a  
50 specified panel; requiring the panel to complete a

51 financial impact statement; requiring the panel to  
52 submit such statement to the Secretary of State;  
53 providing that the panel is not required to complete  
54 the statement under specified circumstances; deleting  
55 obsolete language; requiring that meetings of the  
56 panel be open to the public; requiring that the panel  
57 submit the financial impact statement to the Secretary  
58 of State immediately; authorizing the panel to redraft  
59 the statement within a specified timeframe; requiring  
60 the disclosure of certain material legal effects;  
61 conforming cross-references; requiring the panel to  
62 draft a certain initiative financial information  
63 statement; requiring the Secretary of State to make  
64 such statement available on his or her website;  
65 creating s. 100.373, F.S.; defining the term  
66 "circulated petition form"; authorizing voters to  
67 submit signed circulated petition forms at any office  
68 of the supervisor of elections in the county in which  
69 the voter is registered to vote; providing that a  
70 circulated petition form is valid only if the  
71 supervisor verifies specified information; requiring a  
72 voter to present a certain current and valid form of  
73 picture identification to the supervisor; requiring  
74 the supervisor to deem the petition submitted if the  
75 information on such identification matches the form

76 | and the person matches the identification produced;  
77 | requiring supervisors to verify that the voter's  
78 | signature on the circulated petition form matches the  
79 | voter's signature on file in the Florida Voter  
80 | Registration System; creating s. 100.375, F.S.;  
81 | defining the term "requested petition form"; requiring  
82 | supervisors to accept requests for a petition form  
83 | from a voter or, if instructed, the voter's immediate  
84 | family or legal guardian; authorizing that requests be  
85 | made in person, in writing, by telephone, or through  
86 | the supervisor's website; requiring supervisors to  
87 | cancel requests under specified conditions;  
88 | authorizing that requests for petition forms may be  
89 | mailed to certain addresses; requiring the voter, or  
90 | his or her designee, to provide certain information  
91 | for in-person or telephonic requests; requiring that  
92 | requests be in writing if the petition form is to be  
93 | mailed to an address other than one on file; providing  
94 | requirements for such written requests; requiring the  
95 | division to create a uniform application to request  
96 | petition forms; requiring that such applications  
97 | solicit and require specified information; defining  
98 | the term "immediate family"; requiring the supervisor  
99 | to record certain information and provide it in a  
100 | specified format; defining the term "petition

101 deadline"; requiring the supervisor to mail petition  
102 forms within specified timeframes; providing a  
103 deadline to request petition forms; requiring  
104 supervisors to provide a petition form by one of the  
105 means specified; prohibiting persons from picking up  
106 more than a specified number of petition forms;  
107 providing exceptions; requiring the supervisor to mail  
108 a certain notice in a specified circumstance;  
109 providing that only the materials necessary to submit  
110 a petition form be mailed or delivered; prohibiting a  
111 supervisor from sending a petition form to someone who  
112 did not request one; requiring the supervisor to  
113 enclose a certain mailing envelope with petition  
114 forms; requiring that such envelopes contain a certain  
115 voter's certificate; specifying the placement of the  
116 voter's certificate on the envelope; requiring that  
117 certain instructions be enclosed with each petition;  
118 providing construction; providing legislative intent;  
119 requiring the Department of State to work with  
120 specified entities to develop and implement procedures  
121 and technologies to make petition forms available in  
122 alternative formats; providing that requested petition  
123 forms are only valid if the supervisor verifies  
124 certain information; prohibiting an otherwise valid  
125 petition from being invalidated due to the voter's

126 death after submission of such form; creating s.  
127 100.377, F.S.; authorizing that initiative petition  
128 forms approved by the Secretary of State may continue  
129 to be circulated; providing that certain initiative  
130 petitions or candidate petitions may be kept and  
131 counted under specified conditions; providing  
132 applicability; amending s. 101.161, F.S.; requiring  
133 that constitutional amendments define all terms of art  
134 and describe newly created rights, requirements,  
135 prohibitions, and authorizations; amending the  
136 inclusions on the ballot for every constitutional  
137 amendment proposed by initiative to conform to changes  
138 made by the act; conforming a cross-reference;  
139 amending s. 104.045, F.S.; providing criminal  
140 penalties for a person who submits a petition form or  
141 refrains from submitting a petition form for any  
142 initiative or candidate petition due to a corrupt  
143 offer or the acceptance of a pecuniary or other  
144 benefit; repealing s. 104.186, F.S., relating to  
145 initiative petition circulators and violations  
146 imposed; creating s. 106.031, F.S.; defining terms;  
147 requiring certain political committees and donors and  
148 entities to comply with specified provisions;  
149 requiring that a statement of organization include a  
150 certain attestation; requiring that specified reports

151 have a certain affirmation; requiring specified  
152 persons to keep a certain record for a specified  
153 timeframe; providing criminal penalties for a person  
154 who fails to retain the record for such timeframe;  
155 requiring that certain reports include a certain  
156 attestation; requiring certain donors and entities to  
157 make a certain attestation to the Division of  
158 Elections within a specified timeframe; providing  
159 criminal penalties for a person who fails to make such  
160 attestation or makes a false attestation; providing  
161 criminal penalties for political committees that  
162 willfully submit certain statements or reports known  
163 to be incorrect, false, or incomplete; providing that  
164 civil penalties be imposed by the Florida Elections  
165 Commission for violations of specified provisions;  
166 authorizing the Attorney General to investigate, act  
167 upon, or dispose certain violations; authorizing  
168 criminal proceedings in a court of competent  
169 jurisdiction; authorizing treble penalties; requiring  
170 the division to adopt rules; amending s. 106.08, F.S.;  
171 providing criminal penalties for foreign nationals who  
172 make or offer to make certain contributions, foreign  
173 nationals who direct, dictate, or control any person  
174 to influence a citizen initiative by petition, certain  
175 political committees that knowingly solicit or accept

176 expenditures from foreign nationals, or a foreign  
 177 national who willfully violates specified provisions;  
 178 authorizing the Attorney General to investigate, act  
 179 upon, or dispose certain violations; authorizing  
 180 criminal proceedings in a court of competent  
 181 jurisdiction; authorizing treble penalties; amending  
 182 s. 106.19, F.S.; deleting a provision relating to  
 183 violations by political committees for using petition  
 184 circulators; amending s. 212.055, F.S.; conforming a  
 185 cross-reference; providing for severability; providing  
 186 a directive to the Division of Law Revision; providing  
 187 an effective date.

188  
 189 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

190  
 191 **Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 15.21, Florida**  
 192 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

193 15.21 Initiative petitions; s. 3, Art. XI, State  
 194 Constitution.—

195 (2) If the Secretary of State has submitted an initiative  
 196 petition to the Attorney General pursuant to subsection (1) but  
 197 the validity of the signatures for such initiative petition has  
 198 expired pursuant to s. 100.371(6)(a) ~~s. 100.371(11)(a)~~ before  
 199 securing ballot placement, the Secretary of State must promptly  
 200 notify the Attorney General. The Secretary of State may resubmit



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201 the initiative petition to the Attorney General if the  
202 initiative petition is later circulated for placement on the  
203 ballot of a subsequent general election and the criteria under  
204 subsection (1) are satisfied.

205 **Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 16.061, Florida**  
206 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

207 16.061 Initiative petitions.—

208 (1) The Attorney General shall, within 30 days after  
209 receipt of a proposed revision or amendment to the State  
210 Constitution by initiative petition from the Secretary of State,  
211 petition the Supreme Court, requesting an advisory opinion  
212 regarding the compliance of the text of the proposed amendment  
213 or revision with s. 2, Art. I and s. 3, Art. XI of the State  
214 Constitution, whether the proposed amendment is facially invalid  
215 under the United States Constitution, the compliance of the text  
216 of the proposed constitutional amendment or revision with s.  
217 101.161, and the compliance of the proposed ballot title and  
218 substance with s. 101.161. The petition may enumerate any  
219 specific factual issues that the Attorney General believes would  
220 require a judicial determination.

221 **Section 3. Subsection (28) of section 97.021, Florida**  
222 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

223 97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except  
224 where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

225 ~~(28) "Petition circulator" means an entity or individual~~

226 ~~who collects signatures for compensation for the purpose of~~  
227 ~~qualifying a proposed constitutional amendment for ballot~~  
228 ~~placement.~~

229 **Section 4. Section 99.092, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
230 **read:**

231 99.092 Qualifying fee of candidate; notification of  
232 Department of State.—

233 (1) Each person seeking to qualify for nomination or  
234 election to any office, except a person seeking to qualify by  
235 the petition process pursuant to s. 99.095 and except a person  
236 seeking to qualify as a write-in candidate, shall pay a  
237 qualifying fee, which shall consist of a filing fee and election  
238 assessment, to the officer with whom the person qualifies, and  
239 any party assessment levied, and shall attach the original or  
240 signed duplicate of the receipt for his or her party assessment  
241 or pay the same, in accordance with the provisions of s.  
242 103.121, at the time of filing his or her other qualifying  
243 papers. The amount of the filing fee is 1 ~~3~~ percent of the  
244 annual salary of the office. The amount of the election  
245 assessment is 1 percent of the annual salary of the office  
246 sought. The election assessment shall be transferred to the  
247 Elections Commission Trust Fund. The amount of the party  
248 assessment is 1 ~~2~~ percent of the annual salary. The annual  
249 salary of the office for purposes of computing the filing fee,  
250 election assessment, and party assessment shall be computed by

251 multiplying 12 times the monthly salary, excluding any special  
252 qualification pay, authorized for such office as of July 1  
253 immediately preceding the first day of qualifying. No qualifying  
254 fee shall be returned to the candidate unless the candidate  
255 withdraws his or her candidacy before the last date to qualify.  
256 If a candidate dies prior to an election and has not withdrawn  
257 his or her candidacy before the last date to qualify, the  
258 candidate's qualifying fee shall be returned to his or her  
259 designated beneficiary, and, if the filing fee or any portion  
260 thereof has been transferred to the political party of the  
261 candidate, the Secretary of State shall direct the party to  
262 return that portion to the designated beneficiary of the  
263 candidate.

264 (2) The supervisor of elections shall, immediately after  
265 the last day for qualifying, submit to the Department of State a  
266 list containing the names, party affiliations, and addresses of  
267 all candidates and the offices for which they qualified.

268 (3) (a) The division shall create a uniform petition form  
269 on which signatures for a candidate petition will be affixed.  
270 The form must solicit and require all of the following  
271 information:

- 272 1. The full name of the voter.
- 273 2. The voter's residential address and county.
- 274 3. The voter's voter registration number or date of birth.
- 275 4. The voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's

276 Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of  
277 the voter's social security number.

278 5. An attestation that the voter is a registered voter in  
279 this state and is petitioning the Secretary of State to place  
280 the candidate's name on the ballot.

281 6. The voter's signature and the date signed.

282 7. The candidate's name and party information and the  
283 title of the office sought by the candidate.

284 (b) The petition form must include a notice stating that  
285 the form becomes public record upon receipt by the supervisor of  
286 elections; that it is a first degree misdemeanor to knowingly  
287 sign the same candidate petition more than once; and that the  
288 form may not be validated if all requested information is not  
289 provided.

290 **Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 99.095, Florida**  
291 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

292 99.095 Petition process in lieu of a qualifying fee and  
293 party assessment.—

294 (3) Each petition must be submitted before noon of the  
295 28th day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for  
296 the office sought to the supervisor of elections of the county  
297 in which such petition was circulated. Each supervisor shall  
298 check the signatures on the petitions to verify their status as  
299 voters in the county, district, or other geographical area  
300 represented by the office sought. The supervisor may verify that

301 the signature on a form is valid only if the petition form is a  
 302 circulated petition form properly verified pursuant to s.  
 303 100.373 or a requested petition form properly verified pursuant  
 304 to s. 100.375. No later than the 7th day before the first day of  
 305 the qualifying period, the supervisor shall certify the number  
 306 of valid signatures.

307 **Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section**  
 308 **99.097, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

309 99.097 Verification of signatures on petitions.—

310 (4) (a) The supervisor must be paid in advance the sum of  
 311 10 cents for each signature checked or the actual cost of  
 312 checking such signature, whichever is less, by the candidate or,  
 313 in the case of a petition to have a local issue placed on the  
 314 ballot, by the person or organization submitting the petition.  
 315 In the case of a petition to place a statewide issue on the  
 316 ballot, the person or organization submitting the petition must  
 317 pay the supervisor in advance the cost posted by the supervisor  
 318 pursuant to s. 100.371(6) ~~s. 100.371(11)~~ for the actual cost of  
 319 checking signatures to place a statewide issue on the ballot.

320 **Section 7. Section 100.371, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
 321 **to read:**

322 100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.—

323 (1) Constitutional amendments proposed by initiative shall  
 324 be placed on the ballot for the general election, provided the  
 325 initiative petition has been filed with the Secretary of State

326 no later than February 1 of the year the general election is  
327 held. A petition shall be deemed to be filed with the Secretary  
328 of State upon the date the secretary determines that valid and  
329 verified petition forms have been signed by the constitutionally  
330 required number and distribution of electors under this code.

331 (2) The sponsor of an initiative amendment shall, before  
332 circulating any initiative petition forms to voters ~~prior to~~  
333 ~~obtaining any signatures~~, register as a political committee  
334 pursuant to s. 106.03 and submit the text of the proposed  
335 amendment to the Secretary of State, ~~with the form on which the~~  
336 ~~signatures will be affixed~~, and shall obtain the approval of the  
337 Secretary of State of such form. ~~The Secretary of State shall~~  
338 ~~adopt rules pursuant to s. 120.54 prescribing the style and~~  
339 ~~requirements of such form~~. Upon filing with the Secretary of  
340 State, the text of the proposed amendment and all forms filed in  
341 connection with this section must, upon request, be made  
342 available in alternative formats.

343 (3) (a) The division shall assign the initiative petition a  
344 petition number and create the form on which signatures for the  
345 initiative petition must be affixed. The petition form must  
346 prominently display the petition number, the ballot title, and  
347 the full text of the proposed amendment; must contain the date  
348 approved by the Secretary of State, a barcode associated with  
349 the initiative petition, and a serial number; and must solicit  
350 and require all of the following information:

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351 1. The full name of the voter.

352 2. The voter's residential address and county.

353 3. The voter's voter registration number or date of birth.

354 4. The voter's Florida driver license number or Florida  
355 identification card number, or the last four digits of the  
356 voter's social security number.

357 5. An attestation that the voter is a registered Florida  
358 voter and is petitioning the Secretary of State to place the  
359 proposed amendment on the ballot.

360 6. The voter's signature and the date signed ~~A person may~~  
361 ~~not collect signatures or initiative petitions for compensation~~  
362 ~~unless the person is registered as a petition circulator with~~  
363 ~~the Secretary of State.~~

364 (b) The petition form must include a notice that states  
365 that the form becomes public record upon receipt by the  
366 supervisor; that it is a first degree misdemeanor to knowingly  
367 sign the same initiative petition more than once; and that the  
368 form may not be validated if all requested information is not  
369 provided ~~A citizen may challenge a petition circulator's~~  
370 ~~registration under this section by filing a petition in circuit~~  
371 ~~court. If the court finds that the respondent is not a~~  
372 ~~registered petition circulator, the court may enjoin the~~  
373 ~~respondent from collecting signatures or initiative petitions~~  
374 ~~for compensation until she or he is lawfully registered.~~

375 (4) ~~An application for registration must be submitted in~~

376 ~~the format required by the Secretary of State and must include~~  
377 ~~the following:~~

378 ~~(a) The information required to be on the petition form~~  
379 ~~under s. 101.161, including the ballot summary and title as~~  
380 ~~approved by the Secretary of State.~~

381 ~~(b) The applicant's name, permanent address, temporary~~  
382 ~~address, if applicable, and date of birth.~~

383 ~~(c) An address in this state at which the applicant will~~  
384 ~~accept service of process related to disputes concerning the~~  
385 ~~petition process, if the applicant is not a resident of this~~  
386 ~~state.~~

387 ~~(d) A statement that the applicant consents to the~~  
388 ~~jurisdiction of the courts of this state in resolving disputes~~  
389 ~~concerning the petition process.~~

390 ~~(e) Any information required by the Secretary of State to~~  
391 ~~verify the applicant's identity or address.~~

392 ~~(5) All petitions collected by a petition circulator must~~  
393 ~~contain, in a format required by the Secretary of State, a~~  
394 ~~completed Petition Circulator's Affidavit which includes:~~

395 ~~(a) The circulator's name and permanent address;~~

396 ~~(b) The following statement, which must be signed by the~~  
397 ~~circulator:~~

398  
399 ~~By my signature below, as petition circulator, I~~  
400 ~~verify that the petition was signed in my presence.~~



401 ~~Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read~~  
402 ~~the foregoing Petition Circulator's Affidavit and the~~  
403 ~~facts stated in it are true.~~

404  
405 ~~(6) The division or the supervisor of elections shall make~~  
406 ~~hard copy petition forms or electronic portable document format~~  
407 ~~petition forms available to registered petition circulators. All~~  
408 ~~such forms must contain information identifying the petition~~  
409 ~~circulator to which the forms are provided. The division shall~~  
410 ~~maintain a database of all registered petition circulators and~~  
411 ~~the petition forms assigned to each. Each supervisor of~~  
412 ~~elections shall provide to the division information on petition~~  
413 ~~forms assigned to and received from petition circulators. The~~  
414 ~~information must be provided in a format and at times as~~  
415 ~~required by the division by rule. The division must update~~  
416 ~~information on petition forms daily and make the information~~  
417 ~~publicly available.~~

418 ~~(7) (a) A sponsor that collects petition forms or uses a~~  
419 ~~petition circulator to collect petition forms serves as a~~  
420 ~~fiduciary to the elector signing the petition form, ensuring~~  
421 ~~that any petition form entrusted to the petition circulator~~  
422 ~~shall be promptly delivered to the supervisor of elections~~  
423 ~~within 30 days after the elector signs the form. If a petition~~  
424 ~~form collected by any petition circulator is not promptly~~  
425 ~~delivered to the supervisor of elections, the sponsor is liable~~

426 ~~for the following fines:~~

427 ~~1. A fine in the amount of \$50 for each petition form~~  
428 ~~received by the supervisor of elections more than 30 days after~~  
429 ~~the elector signed the petition form or the next business day,~~  
430 ~~if the office is closed. A fine in the amount of \$250 for each~~  
431 ~~petition form received if the sponsor or petition circulator~~  
432 ~~acted willfully.~~

433 ~~2. A fine in the amount of \$500 for each petition form~~  
434 ~~collected by a petition circulator which is not submitted to the~~  
435 ~~supervisor of elections. A fine in the amount of \$1,000 for any~~  
436 ~~petition form not submitted if the sponsor or petition~~  
437 ~~circulator acted willfully.~~

438 ~~(b) A showing by the sponsor that the failure to deliver~~  
439 ~~the petition form within the required timeframe is based upon~~  
440 ~~force majeure or impossibility of performance is an affirmative~~  
441 ~~defense to a violation of this subsection. The fines described~~  
442 ~~in this subsection may be waived upon a showing that the failure~~  
443 ~~to deliver the petition form promptly is based upon force~~  
444 ~~majeure or impossibility of performance.~~

445 ~~(8)~~ If the Secretary of State reasonably believes that a  
446 person or entity has committed a violation of this section, the  
447 secretary may refer the matter to the Attorney General for  
448 enforcement. The Attorney General may institute a civil action  
449 for a violation of this section or to prevent a violation of  
450 this section. An action for relief may include a permanent or

451 temporary injunction, a restraining order, or any other  
452 appropriate order.

453 ~~(5)(9)~~ The division shall adopt by rule a complaint form  
454 for an elector who claims to have had his or her signature  
455 misrepresented or, forged, ~~or not delivered to the supervisor.~~  
456 The division shall also adopt rules to ensure the integrity of  
457 the petition form gathering process, ~~including rules requiring~~  
458 ~~sponsors to account for all petition forms used by their agents.~~  
459 ~~Such rules may require a sponsor or petition circulator to~~  
460 ~~provide identification information on each petition form as~~  
461 ~~determined by the department as needed to assist in the~~  
462 ~~accounting of petition forms.~~

463 ~~(10)~~ ~~The date on which an elector signs a petition form is~~  
464 ~~presumed to be the date on which the petition circulator~~  
465 ~~received or collected the petition form.~~

466 ~~(6)(a)(11)(a)~~ An initiative petition form circulated for  
467 signature may not be bundled with or attached to any other  
468 petition. Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be  
469 valid until the next February 1 occurring in an even-numbered  
470 year for the purpose of the amendment appearing on the ballot  
471 for the general election occurring in that same year, provided  
472 all other requirements of law are met. ~~The sponsor shall submit~~  
473 ~~signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections for the~~  
474 ~~county of residence listed by the person signing the form for~~  
475 ~~verification of the number of valid signatures obtained. If a~~

476 ~~signature on a petition is from a registered voter in another~~  
477 ~~county, the supervisor shall notify the petition sponsor of the~~  
478 ~~misfiled petition.~~ The supervisor shall promptly verify the  
479 signatures within 60 days after receipt of the petition forms  
480 and payment of a fee for the actual cost of signature  
481 verification incurred by the supervisor. However, for petition  
482 forms submitted less than 60 days before February 1 of an even-  
483 numbered year, the supervisor shall promptly verify the  
484 signatures within 30 days after receipt of the form and payment  
485 of the fee for signature verification. The supervisor shall  
486 promptly record, in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of  
487 State, the date each form is received by the supervisor, and the  
488 date the signature on the form is verified as valid. The  
489 supervisor may verify that the signature on a form is valid only  
490 if:

491 1. The petition form is a circulated petition form  
492 properly verified pursuant to s. 100.373; ~~or The form contains~~  
493 ~~the original signature of the purported elector.~~

494 2. The petition form is a requested petition form properly  
495 verified pursuant to s. 100.375 ~~The purported elector has~~  
496 ~~accurately recorded on the form the date on which he or she~~  
497 ~~signed the form.~~

498 3. ~~The form sets forth the purported elector's name,~~  
499 ~~address, city, county, and voter registration number or date of~~  
500 ~~birth.~~

501 ~~4. The purported elector is, at the time he or she signs~~  
502 ~~the form and at the time the form is verified, a duly qualified~~  
503 ~~and registered elector in the state.~~

504 ~~5. The signature was obtained legally, including that if a~~  
505 ~~paid petition circulator was used, the circulator was validly~~  
506 ~~registered under subsection (3) when the signature was obtained.~~

507  
508 The supervisor shall retain all signed petition signature forms,  
509 separating forms verified as valid from those deemed invalid,  
510 for at least 1 year following the election for which the  
511 petition was circulated. Notwithstanding any other law, the  
512 supervisor shall promptly transmit copies of signed petition  
513 forms to the division upon request.

514 (b) Each supervisor shall post the actual cost of  
515 signature verification on his or her website and may increase  
516 such cost, as necessary, annually on March 1 ~~February 2~~ of each  
517 ~~even-numbered year.~~ The cost includes, but is not limited to,  
518 costs incurred processing and fulfilling requests, comparing  
519 signatures, and validating information on circulated and  
520 requested petition forms pursuant to ss. 100.373 and 100.375,  
521 respectively. The division shall also publish each county's  
522 current cost on its website. The division and each supervisor  
523 shall biennially review available technology aimed at reducing  
524 verification costs.

525 (c) On the last day of each month, or on the last day of

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526 each week from December 1 of an odd-numbered year through  
527 February 1 of the following year, each supervisor shall post on  
528 his or her website the total number of signatures submitted, the  
529 total number of invalid signatures, the total number of  
530 signatures processed, and the aggregate number of verified valid  
531 signatures and the distribution of such signatures by  
532 congressional district for each proposed amendment proposed by  
533 initiative, along with the following information specific to the  
534 reporting period: the total number of signed petition forms  
535 received, the total number of signatures verified, the  
536 distribution of verified valid signatures by congressional  
537 district, and the total number of verified petition forms  
538 forwarded to the Secretary of State.

539 (7) (a) ~~(12)~~ The Secretary of State shall determine from the  
540 signatures verified by the supervisors of elections the total  
541 number of verified valid signatures and the distribution of such  
542 signatures by congressional districts, and the division shall  
543 post such information on its website at the same intervals  
544 specified in paragraph (6) (c) ~~(11) (e)~~. Upon a determination that  
545 the requisite number and distribution of valid signatures have  
546 been obtained, the secretary shall issue a certificate of ballot  
547 position for that proposed amendment and shall assign a  
548 designating number pursuant to s. 101.161. The Secretary of  
549 State shall rescind the certificate of ballot position if:

550 1. An advisory opinion issued by the Supreme Court

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551 pursuant to s. 3(b)(10), Art. V of the State Constitution deems  
552 the initiative petition invalid; or

553 2. The Secretary of State determines, before August 1 of  
554 the year the general election is held, that the initiative  
555 petition did not obtain the requisite number or distribution of  
556 valid signatures.

557 (b) The issuance of a certificate of ballot position  
558 pursuant to paragraph (a) may be contested in the circuit court  
559 by any voter. The contestant must file a complaint with the  
560 clerk of the circuit court for Leon County no later than the  
561 first Tuesday after the first Monday in January after the  
562 election for which the petition was circulated. The complaint  
563 must set forth the grounds on which the contestant intends to  
564 establish that the initiative petition did not obtain the  
565 requisite number or distribution of valid signatures.

566 (8) (a) ~~(13) (a)~~ At the same time the Secretary of State  
567 submits an initiative petition to the Attorney General pursuant  
568 to s. 15.21, the secretary shall submit a copy of the initiative  
569 petition to a panel composed of three persons appointed by the  
570 Governor ~~the Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~. Within 75  
571 days after receipt of a proposed revision or amendment to the  
572 State Constitution by initiative petition from the Secretary of  
573 State, the panel ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~ shall  
574 complete a statement on the ~~an analysis and~~ financial impact to  
575 the state budget ~~statement~~ to be placed on the ballot ~~of the~~

576 ~~estimated increase or decrease in any revenues or costs to state~~  
577 ~~or local governments and the overall impact to the state budget~~  
578 ~~resulting from the proposed initiative.~~ The 75-day time limit is  
579 tolled when the Legislature is in session. The panel ~~Financial~~  
580 ~~Impact Estimating Conference~~ shall submit the financial impact  
581 statement to the ~~Attorney General~~ and Secretary of State. If the  
582 initiative petition has been submitted to the panel ~~Financial~~  
583 ~~Impact Estimating Conference~~ but the validity of signatures has  
584 expired and the initiative petition no longer qualifies for  
585 ballot placement at the ensuing general election, the Secretary  
586 of State must notify the panel ~~Financial Impact Estimating~~  
587 ~~Conference~~. The panel ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~ is  
588 not required to complete a ~~an analysis and~~ financial impact  
589 statement for an initiative petition that fails to meet the  
590 requirements of subsection (1) for placement on the ballot  
591 before the 75-day time limit, including any tolling period,  
592 expires. The initiative petition may be resubmitted to the panel  
593 ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~ if the initiative  
594 petition meets the requisite criteria for a subsequent general  
595 election cycle. ~~A new Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~  
596 ~~shall be established at such time as the initiative petition~~  
597 ~~again satisfies the criteria in s. 15.21(1).~~

598 (b) ~~Immediately upon receipt of a proposed revision or~~  
599 ~~amendment from the Secretary of State, the coordinator of the~~  
600 ~~Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall contact the~~



601 ~~person identified as the sponsor to request an official list of~~  
602 ~~all persons authorized to speak on behalf of the named sponsor~~  
603 ~~and, if there is one, the sponsoring organization at meetings~~  
604 ~~held by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference. All other~~  
605 ~~persons shall be deemed interested parties or proponents or~~  
606 ~~opponents of the initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating~~  
607 ~~Conference shall provide an opportunity for any representatives~~  
608 ~~of the sponsor, interested parties, proponents, or opponents of~~  
609 ~~the initiative to submit information and may solicit information~~  
610 ~~or analysis from any other entities or agencies, including the~~  
611 ~~Office of Economic and Demographic Research.~~

612 ~~(c) All meetings of the panel Financial Impact Estimating~~  
613 ~~Conference shall be open to the public. The panel shall prepare~~  
614 ~~The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of~~  
615 ~~Representatives, jointly, shall be the sole judge for the~~  
616 ~~interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of this~~  
617 ~~subsection.~~

618 ~~1. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference is~~  
619 ~~established to review, analyze, and estimate the financial~~  
620 ~~impact of amendments to or revisions of the State Constitution~~  
621 ~~proposed by initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating~~  
622 ~~Conference shall consist of four principals: one person from the~~  
623 ~~Executive Office of the Governor; the coordinator of the Office~~  
624 ~~of Economic and Demographic Research, or his or her designee;~~  
625 ~~one person from the professional staff of the Senate; and one~~

626 ~~person from the professional staff of the House of~~  
627 ~~Representatives. Each principal shall have appropriate fiscal~~  
628 ~~expertise in the subject matter of the initiative. A Financial~~  
629 ~~Impact Estimating Conference may be appointed for each~~  
630 ~~initiative.~~

631 ~~2. Principals of the Financial Impact Estimating~~  
632 ~~Conference shall reach a consensus or majority concurrence on a~~  
633 ~~clear and unambiguous financial impact statement, no more than~~  
634 ~~150 words in length, and immediately submit the statement to the~~  
635 ~~Secretary of State Attorney General. Nothing in this subsection~~  
636 ~~prohibits the panel Financial Impact Estimating Conference from~~  
637 ~~setting forth a range of potential impacts in the financial~~  
638 ~~impact statement. Any financial impact statement that a court~~  
639 ~~finds not to be in accordance with this section shall be~~  
640 ~~remanded solely to the Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~  
641 ~~for redrafting. The panel may Financial Impact Estimating~~  
642 ~~Conference shall redraft the financial impact statement before~~  
643 ~~the 75th day before the election within 15 days.~~

644 ~~3. If the Supreme Court has rejected the initial~~  
645 ~~submission by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference and no~~  
646 ~~redraft has been approved by the Supreme Court by 5 p.m. on the~~  
647 ~~75th day before the election, the following statement shall~~  
648 ~~appear on the ballot: "The impact of this measure, if any, has~~  
649 ~~not been determined at this time."~~

650 ~~(c)(d)~~ The financial impact statement must be separately

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651 contained and be set forth after the ballot summary and  
652 disclosure of material legal effects as required in s.  
653 101.161(1).

654 1. If the financial impact statement projects a net  
655 negative impact on the state budget, the ballot must include the  
656 statement required by s. 101.161(1)(c) ~~s. 101.161(1)(b)~~.

657 2. If the financial impact statement projects a net  
658 positive impact on the state budget, the ballot must include the  
659 statement required by s. 101.161(1)(d) ~~s. 101.161(1)(e)~~.

660 3. If the financial impact statement estimates an  
661 indeterminate financial impact or if the members of the panel  
662 ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~ are unable to agree on  
663 the statement required by this subsection, the ballot must  
664 include the statement required by s. 101.161(1)(e) ~~s.~~  
665 ~~101.161(1)(d)~~.

666 ~~(d)1.(e)1. Any financial impact statement that the Supreme~~  
667 ~~Court finds not to be in accordance with this subsection shall~~  
668 ~~be remanded solely to the Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~  
669 ~~for redrafting, provided the court's advisory opinion is~~  
670 ~~rendered at least 75 days before the election at which the~~  
671 ~~question of ratifying the amendment will be presented. The~~  
672 ~~Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall prepare and adopt a~~  
673 ~~revised financial impact statement no later than 5 p.m. on the~~  
674 ~~15th day after the date of the court's opinion.~~

675 2. ~~If, by 5 p.m. on the 75th day before the election, the~~

676 ~~Supreme Court has not issued an advisory opinion on the initial~~  
677 ~~financial impact statement prepared by the Financial Impact~~  
678 ~~Estimating Conference for an initiative amendment that otherwise~~  
679 ~~meets the legal requirements for ballot placement, the financial~~  
680 ~~impact statement shall be deemed approved for placement on the~~  
681 ~~ballot.~~

682       ~~3.~~ In addition to the financial impact statement required  
683 by this subsection, the panel ~~Financial Impact Estimating~~  
684 ~~Conference~~ shall draft an initiative financial information  
685 statement. The initiative financial information statement should  
686 describe in greater detail than the financial impact statement  
687 any projected increase or decrease in revenues or costs that the  
688 state or local governments would likely experience if the ballot  
689 measure were approved. If appropriate, the initiative financial  
690 information statement may include both estimated dollar amounts  
691 and a description placing the estimated dollar amounts into  
692 context. The initiative financial information statement must  
693 include both a summary of not more than 500 words and additional  
694 detailed information that includes the assumptions that were  
695 made to develop the financial impacts, workpapers, and any other  
696 information deemed relevant by the Financial Impact Estimating  
697 Conference.

698       ~~2.4.~~ The Department of State shall have printed, and shall  
699 furnish to each supervisor of elections, a copy of the summary  
700 from the initiative financial information statements. The

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701 supervisors shall have the summary from the initiative financial  
702 information statements available at each polling place and at  
703 the main office of the supervisor of elections upon request.

704 3.5. The Secretary of State and the Office of Economic and  
705 ~~Demographic Research~~ shall make available on the Internet each  
706 initiative financial information statement in its entirety. In  
707 addition, each supervisor of elections whose office has a  
708 website shall post the summary from each initiative financial  
709 information statement on the website. Each supervisor shall  
710 include a copy of each summary from the initiative financial  
711 information statements and the Internet addresses for the  
712 information statements on the Secretary of State's website and  
713 ~~the Office of Economic and Demographic Research's websites~~ in  
714 the publication or mailing required by s. 101.20.

715 (9) ~~(14)~~ The Department of State may adopt rules in  
716 accordance with s. 120.54 to carry out the provisions of  
717 subsections (1)-(8) ~~(1)-(14)~~.

718 (10) ~~(15)~~ No provision of this code shall be deemed to  
719 prohibit a private person exercising lawful control over  
720 privately owned property, including property held open to the  
721 public for the purposes of a commercial enterprise, from  
722 excluding from such property persons seeking to engage in  
723 activity supporting or opposing initiative amendments.

724 **Section 8. Section 100.373, Florida Statutes, is created**  
725 **to read:**

726 100.373 Circulated petition forms; verification.—

727 (1) For the purposes of this chapter, the term "circulated  
728 petition form" means an initiative petition form circulated  
729 pursuant to s. 100.371, or a candidate petition form circulated  
730 pursuant to s. 99.095, which has not been requested pursuant to  
731 s. 100.375.

732 (2) A voter may submit a signed circulated petition form  
733 at any supervisor of elections office located within the county  
734 in which the voter is registered to vote. A circulated petition  
735 form is valid only if the supervisor verifies that:

736 (a) The voter presenting the circulated petition form is  
737 identified and his or her signature is verified pursuant to  
738 subsection (3);

739 (b) The voter accurately recorded on the form the date on  
740 which he or she signed the form;

741 (c) The form accurately sets forth the voter's name,  
742 address, city, county, and voter registration number or date of  
743 birth;

744 (d) The form accurately sets forth the voter's driver  
745 license number, the voter's Florida identification card number,  
746 or the last four digits of the voter's social security number;  
747 and

748 (e) The voter is, at the time he or she signs the form and  
749 at the time the form is verified, an active and duly qualified  
750 and registered voter in this state.

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751 (3) (a) The supervisor shall require the voter to present  
752 one of the following forms of current and valid picture  
753 identification:

754 1. Florida driver license.

755 2. Florida identification card issued by the Department of  
756 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

757 3. United States passport.

758 4. United States Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine  
759 identification.

760 5. Veteran health identification card issued by the United  
761 States Department of Veterans Affairs.

762 6. License to carry a concealed weapon or firearm issued  
763 pursuant to s. 790.06.

764 7. Employee identification card issued by any branch,  
765 department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the  
766 state, a county, or a municipality.

767 (b) If the information on the picture identification  
768 matches the information on the circulated petition form and the  
769 supervisor is satisfied that the person presenting the  
770 circulated petition form is the person shown on the picture  
771 identification, the supervisor must deem the petition form  
772 submitted. The supervisor shall then verify that the signature  
773 on the circulated petition form matches a signature on file for  
774 the voter in the Florida Voter Registration System.

775 **Section 9. Section 100.375, Florida Statutes, is created**

776 **to read:**

777 100.375 Requested petition forms; verification.—

778 (1) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this chapter, the term  
779 "requested petition form" means an initiative petition form  
780 created pursuant to s. 100.371, or a candidate petition form  
781 created pursuant to s. 99.095, which is requested pursuant to  
782 this section.

783 (2) REQUEST.—

784 (a) A supervisor shall accept a request for a petition  
785 form only from a voter or, if directly instructed by the voter,  
786 a member of the voter's immediate family or the voter's legal  
787 guardian. A request may be made in person, in writing, by  
788 telephone, or through the supervisor's website. The supervisor  
789 shall cancel a request for a petition form when any first-class  
790 mail or nonforwardable mail sent by the supervisor to the voter  
791 is returned as undeliverable. If the voter requests a petition  
792 form thereafter, the voter must provide or confirm his or her  
793 current residential address.

794 (b) The supervisor may accept a request for a petition  
795 form to be mailed to a voter's address on file in the Florida  
796 Voter Registration System from the voter, or, if directly  
797 instructed by the voter, from a member of the voter's immediate  
798 family or the voter's legal guardian. If an in-person or a  
799 telephonic request is made, the voter must provide the voter's  
800 Florida driver license number, the voter's Florida



801 identification card number, or the last 4 digits of the voter's  
802 social security number. If the petition form is requested to be  
803 mailed to an address other than the voter's address on file in  
804 the Florida Voter Registration System, the request must be made  
805 in writing. A written request must be signed by the voter and  
806 include the voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's  
807 Florida identification card number, or the last 4 digits of the  
808 voter's social security number. The division shall create a  
809 uniform application to request a candidate or initiative  
810 petition form. The application must solicit and require the  
811 following information:

812 1. The full name of the voter for whom the petition form  
813 is requested;

814 2. The voter's residential address and county and the  
815 voter's mailing address if different than the voter's  
816 residential address;

817 3. The voter's voter registration number or date of birth;

818 4. The voter's Florida driver license number, the voter's  
819 Florida identification card number, or last 4 digits of the  
820 voter's social security number;

821 5. The requester's name, if applicable;

822 6. The requester's residential address, if applicable;

823 7. The requester's Florida driver license number, the  
824 requester's Florida identification card number, or the last 4  
825 digits of the requester's social security number, if applicable;

826 8. The requester's relationship to the voter, if  
827 applicable;

828 9. An affidavit stating that the requester is authorized  
829 by the voter to request a petition form on the voter's behalf,  
830 if applicable;

831 10. The voter's signature and the date signed or the  
832 requester's signature and the date signed; and

833 11. If the petition form requested is for an initiative  
834 petition, the ballot title and initiative petition number  
835 assigned by the division.

836 (c) For the purposes of this section, the term "immediate  
837 family" refers to the following, as applicable:

838 1. The voter's spouse, parent, child, grandparent,  
839 grandchild, or sibling, or the parent, child, grandparent,  
840 grandchild, or sibling of the voter's spouse.

841 2. The designee's spouse, parent, child, grandparent,  
842 grandchild, or sibling, or the parent, child, grandparent,  
843 grandchild, or sibling of the designee's spouse.

844 (3) PETITION FORM REQUEST INFORMATION.—For each request  
845 for a petition form received, the supervisor shall record the  
846 following information and provide such information in an  
847 electronic format as required by division rule:

848 (a) The date the request was made;

849 (b) The initiative petition number, if any;

850 (c) The identity of the voter's designee making the

851 request, if applicable;

852 (d) The voter's Florida driver license number, voter's  
853 Florida identification card number, or last 4 digits of the  
854 voter's social security number provided with a written request;

855 (e) The date the petition form was delivered to the voter  
856 or the voter's designee or the date the petition form was  
857 delivered to the post office or other carrier;

858 (f) The address to which the petition form was mailed or  
859 the identity of the voter's designee to whom the petition form  
860 was delivered, if applicable;

861 (g) The date the petition form was received by the  
862 supervisor;

863 (h) The absence of the voter's signature and the Voter's  
864 Certificate, if applicable;

865 (i) Whether the Voter's Certificate contains a signature  
866 that does not match a signature on file for the voter in the  
867 Florida Voter Registration System; and

868 (j) Any other information the supervisor deems necessary.

869 (4) DELIVERY OF PETITION FORMS.—

870 (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "petition  
871 deadline" means:

872 1. In the case of an initiative petition, the 30th day  
873 preceding February 1 of the year the general election is held.

874 2. In the case of a candidate petition, the 28th day  
875 preceding the first day of the qualifying period for the office

876 sought.

877 (b) The supervisor shall mail petition forms within 5  
878 business days after receiving a request for such forms. However,  
879 the supervisor shall mail petition forms that are requested  
880 pursuant to this section on or before July 1, 2025, and no later  
881 than July 5, 2025.

882 (c) The deadline to submit a request for a petition form  
883 to be mailed is 5 p.m. local time on the 10th day before the  
884 petition deadline.

885 (d) Upon request for a petition form, the supervisor shall  
886 provide a petition form to each voter who has made a request for  
887 such petition form, by one of the following means:

888 1. By nonforwardable, return-if-undeliverable mail to the  
889 voter's current mailing address on file with the supervisor or  
890 any other address the voter specifies in the request. The  
891 envelopes must be prominently marked "Do Not Forward."

892 2. By personal delivery to the voter up to 5 p.m. on the  
893 third day before the petition deadline upon presentation of the  
894 identification required by s. 101.043.

895 3. By delivery to the voter's designee up to 5 p.m. on the  
896 third day before the petition deadline. Any voter may designate  
897 in writing a person to pick up the petition form for the voter;  
898 however, the person designated may not pick up more than 2  
899 petition forms per petition, other than the designee's own  
900 petition form, except that additional petition forms may be

901 picked up for members of the designee's immediate family. The  
902 designee shall provide to the supervisor the written  
903 authorization by the voter, the designee's picture  
904 identification and a completed affidavit. The designee shall  
905 state in the affidavit that the designee is authorized by the  
906 voter to pick up the petition form and must indicate if the  
907 voter is a member of the designee's immediate family, and, if  
908 so, the relationship. The department shall prescribe the form of  
909 the affidavit. If the supervisor is satisfied that the designee  
910 is authorized to pick up the petition form and that the  
911 signature of the voter on the written authorization matches the  
912 signature of the voter on file, the supervisor must give the  
913 petition form to the designee for delivery to the voter.

914 (e) If a requested petition form is mailed to an address  
915 other than the voter's address on file in the Florida Voter  
916 Registration System or delivered to a designee, the supervisor  
917 must mail a notice letter to the voter's address on file with  
918 the Florida Voter Registration System.

919 (5) MATERIALS.—Only the materials necessary to submit a  
920 petition form may be mailed or delivered with any petition form.

921 (6) PROHIBITION.—A supervisor may not send a petition form  
922 to a voter unless the voter has requested a petition form in the  
923 manner authorized under this section.

924 (7) MAILING ENVELOPE.—

925 (a) The supervisor shall enclose with each petition form a

926 mailing envelope that must be addressed to the supervisor and  
 927 also bear on the back side a certificate in substantially the  
 928 following form:

930 Note: Please Read Instructions Carefully Before  
 931 Completing Petition Form and Completing Voter's Certificate.

933 VOTER'S CERTIFICATE

934 I, ....., do solemnly swear or affirm that I am a qualified  
 935 and registered voter of .... County, Florida, and that I have  
 936 not and will not submit more than one petition form for this  
 937 initiative. I understand that if I commit or attempt to commit  
 938 any fraud in connection with a petition, submit a fraudulent  
 939 petition form, or submit more than one petition form for the  
 940 same initiative, I can be convicted of a misdemeanor of the  
 941 first degree and fined up to \$1,000 and/or imprisoned for up to  
 942 a year. I also understand that failure to sign this certificate  
 943 will invalidate my petition form.

944 ...(Date)...

945 ...(Voter's Signature)...

946 ...(E-Mail Address)...

947 ...(Home Telephone Number)...

948 ...(Mobile Telephone Number)...

950 (b) Each return mailing envelope must bear the voter's

951 name and any encoded mark used by the supervisor's office.

952 (c) A mailing envelope may not bear any indication of the  
953 political affiliation of a voter.

954 (8) PLACEMENT OF THE VOTER'S CERTIFICATE.—The certificate  
955 must be arranged on the back of the mailing envelope so that the  
956 line for the signature of the voter is across the seal of the  
957 envelope; however, no statement shall appear on the envelope  
958 which indicates that a signature of the voter must cross the  
959 seal of the envelope. The voter shall execute the certificate on  
960 the envelope.

961 (9) INSTRUCTIONS.—The supervisor shall enclose with each  
962 petition form separate printed instructions in substantially the  
963 following form; however, where the instructions appear in  
964 capitalized text, the text of the printed instructions must be  
965 in boldface type:

966  
967 READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING  
968 PETITION FORM.

969  
970 1. VERY IMPORTANT. In order to ensure that your petition  
971 form will be counted, it should be completed and returned as  
972 soon as possible so that it can reach the supervisor of  
973 elections of your county of residence no later than 5 p.m. on  
974 [INSERT PETITION DEADLINE].

975 2. Place your completed petition form into the enclosed

976 mailing envelope, which is addressed to the supervisor.

977 3. Seal the mailing envelope and completely fill out the  
978 Voter's Certificate on the back of the mailing envelope.

979 4. VERY IMPORTANT. In order for your petition form to be  
980 counted, you must sign your name on the line above (Voter's  
981 Signature). A petition form will not be counted if the signature  
982 on the petition form does not match the signature on record. The  
983 signature on file at the time the supervisor of elections in  
984 your county of residence receives your petition form is the  
985 signature that will be used to verify your signature on the  
986 Voter's Certificate. If you need to update your signature for  
987 this election, send your signature update on a voter  
988 registration application to your supervisor of elections so that  
989 it is received before your petition form is received.

990 5. Mail, deliver, or have delivered the completed mailing  
991 envelope. Be sure there is sufficient postage if mailed. THE  
992 COMPLETED MAILING ENVELOPE MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF  
993 THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OF YOUR COUNTY OF RESIDENCE.

994 6. FELONY NOTICE. It is a felony under Florida law to  
995 accept any gift, payment, or gratuity in exchange for your  
996 submission of a petition form. It is also a felony under Florida  
997 law to submit a petition form using a false identity or false  
998 address, or under any other circumstances making your petition  
999 form false or fraudulent.

1000 7. DEADLINE NOTICE. To ensure that your petition form



1001 counts, your supervisor of elections must receive your petition  
 1002 form by 5 p.m. [INSERT PETITION DEADLINE]. If you wait to mail  
 1003 your petition form, it might not count. To prevent this from  
 1004 occurring, please mail or turn in your petition form as soon as  
 1005 possible.

1006  
 1007 (10) REQUEST NOT TO PRECLUDE SUBMISSION OF A CIRCULATED  
 1008 PETITION FORM.—The provisions of this chapter may not be  
 1009 construed to prohibit a voter who has requested a petition form  
 1010 pursuant to this section from submitting a circulated petition  
 1011 form pursuant to s. 100.373, provided that the voter submits no  
 1012 more than one signed petition form for the same initiative or  
 1013 candidate petition.

1014 (11) ACCOMMODATION OF DISABILITIES.—It is the intent of  
 1015 the Legislature that submitting petition forms be by methods  
 1016 that are fully accessible to all voters, including voters having  
 1017 a disability. The department shall work with the supervisors and  
 1018 the disability community to develop and implement procedures and  
 1019 technologies that include processes for providing petition  
 1020 forms, upon request, in alternative formats that allow all  
 1021 voters to submit a petition form without the assistance of  
 1022 another person.

1023 (12) VERIFICATION.—A requested petition form is valid only  
 1024 if the supervisor verifies that:

1025 (a) The petition form was returned in a mailing envelope

1026 delivered by the supervisor pursuant to subsection (7) and the  
 1027 voter completed the voter certificate;

1028 (b) The signature on the petition form matches a signature  
 1029 on file for the voter in the Florida Voter Registration System;

1030 (c) The voter accurately recorded on the form the date on  
 1031 which the voter signed the form;

1032 (d) The form accurately sets forth the voter's name,  
 1033 address, city, county, and voter registration number or date of  
 1034 birth;

1035 (e) The form accurately sets forth the voter's Florida  
 1036 driver license number, the voter's Florida identification card  
 1037 number, or the last 4 digits of the voter's social security  
 1038 number; and

1039 (f) The voter is, at the time he or she signs the form and  
 1040 at the time the form is verified, an active and duly qualified  
 1041 and registered voter in this state.

1042 (13) POSTHUMOUS VERIFICATION.—An otherwise valid petition  
 1043 form may not be invalidated because the voter died after  
 1044 submitting the petition.

1045 **Section 10. Section 100.377, Florida Statutes, is created**  
 1046 **to read:**

1047 100.377 Signatures gathered for initiative petition;  
 1048 effect of this act.—Any initiative petition form approved by the  
 1049 Secretary of State before the effective date of this act may  
 1050 continue to be circulated. Any signature gathered on an

1051 authorized form for an initiative petition or candidate petition  
 1052 submitted to a supervisor of elections before the effective date  
 1053 of this act may be kept and counted, if otherwise valid, and  
 1054 that form is not required to be circulated and verified pursuant  
 1055 to s. 100.373 or requested and verified pursuant to s. 100.375.  
 1056 However, any signature submitted to a supervisor of elections  
 1057 after the effective date of this act is subject to the  
 1058 provisions of this act.

1059 **Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 101.161, Florida**  
 1060 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1061 101.161 Referenda; ballots.—

1062 (1) A constitutional amendment proposed by initiative must  
 1063 define all terms of art and describe all newly created rights,  
 1064 requirements, prohibitions, and authorizations. Whenever a  
 1065 constitutional amendment or other public measure is submitted to  
 1066 the vote of the people, a ballot summary of such amendment or  
 1067 other public measure shall be printed in clear and unambiguous  
 1068 language on the ballot after the list of candidates, followed by  
 1069 the word "yes" and also by the word "no," and shall be styled in  
 1070 such a manner that a "yes" vote will indicate approval of the  
 1071 proposal and a "no" vote will indicate rejection. The ballot  
 1072 summary of the amendment or other public measure and the ballot  
 1073 title to appear on the ballot shall be embodied in the  
 1074 constitutional revision commission proposal, constitutional  
 1075 convention proposal, taxation and budget reform commission

1076 proposal, or enabling resolution or ordinance. The ballot  
 1077 summary of the amendment or other public measure shall be an  
 1078 explanatory statement, not exceeding 75 words in length, of the  
 1079 chief purpose of the measure. In addition, for every  
 1080 constitutional amendment proposed by initiative, the ballot  
 1081 shall include, following the ballot summary, in the following  
 1082 order:

1083 (a) A disclosure prepared by the Attorney General  
 1084 describing the material legal effects of the proposed amendment  
 1085 and identifying each provision of the State Constitution and  
 1086 Florida Statutes which may be repealed in full or in part.

1087 (b) A separate financial impact statement concerning the  
 1088 measure prepared by a panel composed of three persons appointed  
 1089 by the Governor ~~the Financial Impact Estimating Conference~~ in  
 1090 accordance with s. 100.371(8) ~~s. 100.371(13)~~.

1091 (c) ~~(b)~~ If the financial impact statement projects a net  
 1092 negative impact on the state budget, the following statement in  
 1093 bold print:

1094  
 1095 THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ESTIMATED TO  
 1096 HAVE A NET NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS  
 1097 IMPACT MAY RESULT IN HIGHER TAXES OR A LOSS OF  
 1098 GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED  
 1099 STATE BUDGET AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

1100

1101        (d)1.~~(e)1.~~ If the financial impact statement projects a  
 1102 net positive impact on the state budget resulting in whole or in  
 1103 part from additional tax revenue, the following statement in  
 1104 bold print:

1105  
 1106            THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ESTIMATED TO  
 1107            HAVE A NET POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS  
 1108            IMPACT MAY RESULT IN GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OR  
 1109            AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

1110  
 1111            2. If the financial impact statement projects a net  
 1112 positive impact on the state budget for reasons other than those  
 1113 specified in subparagraph 1., the following statement in bold  
 1114 print:

1115  
 1116            THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ESTIMATED TO  
 1117            HAVE A NET POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS  
 1118            IMPACT MAY RESULT IN LOWER TAXES OR AN INCREASE IN  
 1119            GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

1120  
 1121            (e)~~(d)~~ If the financial impact statement is indeterminate  
 1122 or the members of the panel ~~Financial Impact Estimating~~  
 1123 ~~Conference~~ are unable to agree on the financial impact  
 1124 statement, the following statement in bold print:

1125

1126 THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS AMENDMENT CANNOT BE  
 1127 DETERMINED DUE TO AMBIGUITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES  
 1128 SURROUNDING THE AMENDMENT'S IMPACT.

1129  
 1130 The ballot title shall consist of a caption, not exceeding 15  
 1131 words in length, by which the measure is commonly referred to or  
 1132 spoken of. This subsection does not apply to constitutional  
 1133 amendments or revisions proposed by joint resolution.

1134 **Section 12. Section 104.045, Florida Statutes, is amended**  
 1135 **to read:**

1136 104.045 Vote selling.—Any person who:

1137 (1) Corruptly offers to vote for or against, or to refrain  
 1138 from voting for or against, any candidate in any election, or to  
 1139 submit a petition form or refrain from submitting a petition  
 1140 form for any initiative or candidate petition, in return for  
 1141 pecuniary or other benefit; or

1142 (2) Accepts a pecuniary or other benefit in exchange for a  
 1143 promise to vote for or against, or to refrain from voting for or  
 1144 against, any candidate in any election, or to submit a petition  
 1145 form or refrain from submitting a petition form for any  
 1146 initiative or candidate petition,

1147  
 1148 is guilty of a felony of the third degree, punishable as  
 1149 provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

1150 **Section 13. Section 104.186, Florida Statutes, is**

1151 repealed.

1152 **Section 14. Section 106.031, Florida Statutes, is created**  
 1153 **to read:**

1154 106.031 Reports and filings related to political  
 1155 committees organized to sponsor a constitutional amendment  
 1156 proposed by citizen initiative; penalties.-

1157 (1) As used in this section, the term

1158 (a) "Foreign national" has the same meaning as in s.  
 1159 106.08(12)(a)1.

1160 (b) "Preliminary activity" includes, but is not limited  
 1161 to, conducting a poll, drafting ballot petition language,  
 1162 conducting a focus group, making telephone calls, and  
 1163 travelling.

1164 (2) Any political committee that is organized to sponsor a  
 1165 constitutional amendment proposed by initiative shall also  
 1166 comply with the requirements of this section and this chapter.

1167 (3) Any donor or entity that makes a contribution or  
 1168 independent expenditure to a political committee organized to  
 1169 sponsor a constitutional amendment proposed by initiative shall  
 1170 also comply with the requirements of this section and this  
 1171 chapter.

1172 (4) The statement of organization required in s.  
 1173 106.03(1)(a) must include a statement attesting that no  
 1174 preliminary activity was funded by foreign nationals, whether  
 1175 directly or indirectly.

1176 (5) All reports required to be filed pursuant to s. 106.07  
 1177 must affirm that the political committee has not solicited or  
 1178 accepted contributions or expenditures from a foreign national.

1179 (6) Any person who makes an independent expenditure to a  
 1180 political committee organized to sponsor a citizen initiative  
 1181 petition shall also keep a record of the transaction for 5 years  
 1182 from the date of the independent expenditure. A person who fails  
 1183 to retain the records for a period of 5 years commits a  
 1184 misdemeanor of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
 1185 775.082 or s. 775.083.

1186 (7) Any report required pursuant to s. 106.07 must attest  
 1187 that each donor who made a contribution is not a foreign  
 1188 national and that each donor who made a contribution has not  
 1189 knowingly or willfully accepted funds aggregating in excess of  
 1190 \$100,000 from a foreign national in the 4-year period preceding  
 1191 the date the contribution is made.

1192 (8) Each donor or entity that made an independent  
 1193 expenditure shall attest to the division within 48 hours after  
 1194 making one or more independent expenditures that it has not  
 1195 knowingly and willfully accepted funds aggregating in excess of  
 1196 \$100,000 from a foreign national in the 4-year period preceding  
 1197 the date the contribution is made and that it will not do so  
 1198 through the election where the initiative is to appear on the  
 1199 ballot. A donor or entity that fails to make an attestation to  
 1200 the division within 48 hours after the contribution is made or



1201 makes a false attestation to the division commits a misdemeanor  
 1202 of the third degree punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
 1203 775.083.

1204 (9) Any political committee that willfully submits a false  
 1205 statement or report required under this section while knowing  
 1206 that such report is incorrect, false, or incomplete commits a  
 1207 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
 1208 775.082 or s. 775.083.

1209 (10) Any political committee that violates this section is  
 1210 liable for a civil fine of up to \$5,000 to be determined by the  
 1211 Florida Elections Commission.

1212 (11) Any donor or entity that made an independent  
 1213 expenditure that violates this section is liable for a civil  
 1214 fine of up to \$5,000, to be determined by the Florida Elections  
 1215 Commission.

1216 (12) The Attorney General may investigate, act upon, or  
 1217 dispose of alleged criminal violations of this section. Criminal  
 1218 proceedings for violations of this section may be brought in the  
 1219 appropriate court of competent jurisdiction. In addition to  
 1220 other penalties provided, the court may assess a penalty up to  
 1221 three times the amount allowed in s. 775.083.

1222 (13) The division shall adopt rules to administer this  
 1223 section.

1224 **Section 15. Subsection (12) of section 106.08, Florida**  
 1225 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1226 | 106.08 Contributions; limitations on.—

1227 | (12) (a)1. For purposes of this subsection, the term

1228 | "foreign national" means:

1229 | a. A foreign government;

1230 | b. A foreign political party;

1231 | c. A foreign corporation, partnership, association,

1232 | organization, or other combination of persons organized under

1233 | the laws of or having its principal place of business in a

1234 | foreign country;

1235 | d. A person with foreign citizenship; or

1236 | e. A person who is not a citizen or national of the United

1237 | States and is not lawfully admitted to the United States for

1238 | permanent residence.

1239 | 2. The term does not include:

1240 | a. A person who is a dual citizen or dual national of the

1241 | United States and a foreign country.

1242 | b. A domestic subsidiary of a foreign corporation,

1243 | partnership, association, organization, or other combination of

1244 | persons organized under the laws of or having its principal

1245 | place of business in a foreign country if:

1246 | (I) The donations and disbursements used toward a

1247 | contribution or an expenditure are derived entirely from funds

1248 | generated by the subsidiary's operations in the United States;

1249 | and

1250 | (II) All decisions concerning donations and disbursements

1251 used toward a contribution or an expenditure are made by  
1252 individuals who either hold United States citizenship or are  
1253 permanent residents of the United States. For purposes of this  
1254 sub-sub-subparagraph, decisions concerning donations and  
1255 disbursements do not include decisions regarding the  
1256 subsidiary's overall budget for contributions or expenditures in  
1257 connection with an election.

1258 (b) A foreign national may not make or offer to make,  
1259 directly or indirectly, a contribution or expenditure in  
1260 connection with any election held in the state. A foreign  
1261 national who willfully makes or offers to make, directly or  
1262 indirectly, a contribution to any election in this state commits  
1263 a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
1264 775.082 or s. 775.083.

1265 (c) A foreign national who directs, dictates, controls, or  
1266 directly or indirectly participates in the decisionmaking  
1267 process of any person with regard to that person's activities to  
1268 influence a citizen initiative by petition, such as decisions  
1269 concerning the making of contributions or expenditures to  
1270 influence a citizen initiative by petition, commits a felony of  
1271 the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
1272 775.083.

1273 (d) A political committee organized to sponsor a citizen  
1274 initiative by petition which knowingly solicits or accepts any  
1275 expenditure from a foreign national commits a felony of the

1276 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.  
 1277 775.083.

1278 (e) A foreign national who willfully violates any part of  
 1279 this subsection or a political committee that willfully violates  
 1280 any part of this subsection may be subject to a fine of at least  
 1281 \$5,000 and up to \$50,000, to be determined by the Florida  
 1282 Elections Commission.

1283 (f) The Attorney General may investigate, act upon, or  
 1284 dispose of alleged criminal violations of this subsection.  
 1285 Criminal proceedings for violations of this subsection may be  
 1286 brought in the appropriate court of competent jurisdiction. In  
 1287 addition to other penalties provided, the court may assess a  
 1288 penalty of up to three times the amount allowed in s. 775.083.

1289 **Section 16. Subsection (3) of section 106.19, Florida**  
 1290 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1291 106.19 Violations by candidates, persons connected with  
 1292 campaigns, and political committees.—

1293 ~~(3) A political committee sponsoring a constitutional~~  
 1294 ~~amendment proposed by initiative which submits a petition form~~  
 1295 ~~gathered by a paid petition circulator which does not provide~~  
 1296 ~~the name and address of the paid petition circulator on the form~~  
 1297 ~~is subject to the civil penalties prescribed in s. 106.265.~~

1298 **Section 17. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section**  
 1299 **212.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1300 212.055 Discretionary sales surtaxes; legislative intent;

1301 authorization and use of proceeds.—It is the legislative intent  
 1302 that any authorization for imposition of a discretionary sales  
 1303 surtax shall be published in the Florida Statutes as a  
 1304 subsection of this section, irrespective of the duration of the  
 1305 levy. Each enactment shall specify the types of counties  
 1306 authorized to levy; the rate or rates which may be imposed; the  
 1307 maximum length of time the surtax may be imposed, if any; the  
 1308 procedure which must be followed to secure voter approval, if  
 1309 required; the purpose for which the proceeds may be expended;  
 1310 and such other requirements as the Legislature may provide.  
 1311 Taxable transactions and administrative procedures shall be as  
 1312 provided in s. 212.054.

1313 (1) CHARTER COUNTY AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM  
 1314 SURTAX.—

1315 (c)1. The proposal to adopt a discretionary sales surtax  
 1316 as provided in this subsection and to create a trust fund within  
 1317 the county accounts shall be placed on the ballot in accordance  
 1318 with law and must be approved in a referendum held at a general  
 1319 election in accordance with subsection (10).

1320 2. If the proposal to adopt a surtax is by initiative, the  
 1321 petition sponsor must, at least 180 days before the proposed  
 1322 referendum, comply with all of the following:

1323 a. Provide a copy of the final resolution or ordinance to  
 1324 the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
 1325 Accountability. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and

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1326 Government Accountability shall procure a certified public  
1327 accountant in accordance with subsection (11) for the  
1328 performance audit.

1329 b. File the initiative petition and its required valid  
1330 signatures with the supervisor of elections. The supervisor of  
1331 elections shall verify signatures and retain signature forms in  
1332 the same manner as required for initiatives under s. 100.371(6)  
1333 ~~s. 100.371(11)~~.

1334 3. The failure of an initiative sponsor to comply with the  
1335 requirements of subparagraph 2. renders any referendum held  
1336 void.

1337 **Section 18.** If any provision of this act or its  
1338 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
1339 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of  
1340 this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision  
1341 or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are  
1342 severable.

1343 **Section 19.** The Division of Law Revision is directed to  
1344 replace the phrase "the effective date of this act" wherever it  
1345 occurs in this act with the date this act becomes a law.

1346 **Section 20.** This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
1347 law.