



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Vince Leach (R-11)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Thursday, February 16, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House Government Committee Passes Legislation Restoring Integrity and Adding Transparency to Arizona Initiative Process

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The House Government Committee today passed [HB 2404](#), legislation sponsored by Representative Vince Leach (R-11) to restore integrity and add transparency to Arizona's initiative process.

“Because voter-approved initiatives cannot be easily amended and improved to address unintended consequences, we need to get them right. That’s not happening right now,” said Representative Leach.

“HB 2404 restores the initiative process as a legislative tool for Arizonans, not out-of-state interests looking to use Arizona as a social laboratory.”

Reforms in the bill include:

- Removes the incentive for fraud and forgery by ending the practice of paying petition circulators per signature.
- Requires initiative campaign committees to file an affidavit with the Secretary of State’s office if they intend to pay petition circulators and makes them liable for violations committed by their paid circulators.
- Requires petition circulators to complete an online circulator training class.
- Requires petition circulators to undergo a background check and makes ineligible any circulator who has been convicted of a criminal offense involving fraud, forgery, or identity theft within the last five years, has had a civil or criminal penalty imposed for an election law violation within the last five years, or has been convicted of a felony and has not had their civil rights restored.
- Requires the monthly submittal of collected signatures to ensure accurate counting and review.

- Clarifies who may bring an action to challenge the validity of an initiative or referendum measure.

###

CONTACT:

Matthew Specht
Director of Communications
House Majority Staff
602-926-5518
mspecht@azleg.gov