



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Vince Leach (R-11)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

House Passes Legislation Restoring the Integrity of Arizona's Initiative Process

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The House of Representatives today passed HB 2404, legislation sponsored by Representative Vince Leach (R-11) that works to restore the integrity of Arizona's initiative process.

The central component of HB 2404 would remove the incentive for fraud and forgery by prohibiting the practice of paying initiative petition circulators per signature.

"Simply put, Arizonans have lost confidence in our initiative process," said Representative Leach. **"Far from being a citizen-driven form of direct democracy, out-of-state special interests have hijacked our initiative process and made it rife with fraud."**

"HB 2404 leaves the initiative process intact as a legislative tool for Arizonans, and it restores integrity to the process by removing the incentive for fraud."

Other provisions of the bill include:

- Allowing a committee that supports or opposes an initiative to submit the text to Legislative Council for review and possible recommendations to improve the text.
- Modifying the number of days within which a challenge to the registration of circulators can occur (changing from five calendar days to ten business days).
- Clarifying who may bring an action to challenge the validity of an initiative or referendum measure.

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CONTACT:

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