

REFERENCE TITLE: referendums; strict compliance

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1560

Introduced by
Senator Leach

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 19-101.01 AND 19-111, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING
TO REFERENDUMS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 19-101.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 19-101.01. Legislative findings and intent; strict compliance

5 The legislature recognizes that a referendum may overrule the
6 results of determinations made by representatives of the people and
7 therefore finds and determines that strict compliance with the
8 constitutional and statutory requirements for the referendum process and
9 in the application and enforcement of those requirements provides the
10 surest method for safeguarding the integrity and accuracy of the
11 referendum process. Therefore, the legislature finds and declares its
12 intent that the constitutional and statutory requirements for the
13 referendum be strictly construed and that persons using the referendum
14 process strictly comply with those constitutional and statutory
15 requirements. ~~THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF~~
16 ~~ELECTIONS MAY ENFORCE STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND~~
17 ~~STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR A REFERENDUM.~~

18 Sec. 2. Section 19-111, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
19 read:

20 19-111. Number for petition; training materials; definition

21 A. A person or organization intending to propose a law or
22 constitutional amendment by initiative petition or to file a referendum
23 petition against a measure, item, section or part of a measure, before
24 causing the petition to be printed and circulated, shall file with the
25 secretary of state ~~OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS~~ an application,
26 on a form to be provided by the secretary of state ~~OR OTHER OFFICER IN~~
27 ~~CHARGE OF ELECTIONS~~, setting forth the person's name or, if an
28 organization, its name and the names and titles of its officers, the
29 person's or organization's address, the person's or organization's
30 intention to circulate and file a petition, a description of not more than
31 two hundred words of the principal provisions of the proposed law,
32 constitutional amendment or measure and the text of the proposed law,
33 constitutional amendment or measure to be initiated or referred in not
34 less than eight point type, and applying for issuance of an official
35 serial number. At the same time as the person or organization files its
36 application, the person or organization shall file with the secretary of
37 state ~~OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS~~ its statement of
38 organization. The secretary of state ~~OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF~~
39 ~~ELECTIONS~~ shall not accept an application for initiative or referendum
40 without an accompanying statement of organization ~~AND A COMPLETE AND~~
41 ~~CORRECT APPLICATION~~ as prescribed by this subsection.

42 B. On receipt of ~~the~~ ~~A COMPLETE AND CORRECT~~ application ~~WITH AN~~
43 ~~ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION~~, the
44 secretary of state ~~OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS~~ shall assign an
45 official serial number to the petition, which number shall appear in the
46 lower right-hand corner of each side of each copy thereof, and issue that

1 number to the applicant. The secretary of state OR OTHER OFFICER IN
2 CHARGE OF ELECTIONS shall assign numbers to petitions in numerical
3 sequence, and a record shall be maintained in the OFFICE OF THE secretary
4 of ~~state's office~~ STATE OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS of each
5 application received and of the numbers assigned and issued to the
6 applicant. IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF
7 ELECTIONS REJECTS AN APPLICATION FOR A PETITION SERIAL NUMBER, THE
8 SECRETARY OF STATE OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE
9 THE APPLICANT WITH A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR THE REJECTION
10 WITHIN TWO BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE REJECTION OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE
11 PETITION SERIAL NUMBER.

12 C. The secretary of state shall make available to each applicant by
13 electronic means a copy of the text of this article governing the
14 initiative and referendum and all rules adopted by the secretary of state
15 pursuant to this title. The secretary of state shall make available by
16 electronic means a copy of the text of this article governing the
17 initiative and referendum and all rules adopted by the secretary of state
18 pursuant to this title to the county, city and town clerks who shall
19 similarly furnish a copy to each applicant by electronic means. If a
20 member of the public so requests, the secretary of state and the county,
21 city and town clerks shall provide a copy in pamphlet form.

22 D. The secretary of state shall make available to each person or
23 organization circulating a statewide initiative, referendum or recall
24 petition a copy of circulator training materials created by the secretary
25 of state. Circulator training materials may be provided on paper or in
26 electronic format and shall also be available on the secretary of state's
27 website. A person or organization circulating a statewide petition shall
28 provide each circulator with the secretary of state's circulator training
29 materials and shall collect and submit to the secretary of state each of
30 its circulators' training materials receipts before the filing of
31 completed petitions. Each person who is a statewide circulator shall
32 acknowledge in writing receipt of the training materials before
33 circulating a petition for signatures. Failure to provide circulator
34 training materials or failure to submit circulators' training materials
35 receipts is not grounds for removal of signatures or signature sheets.
36 Notwithstanding section 19-141, this subsection does not apply to
37 initiative, referendum or recall petitions for cities, towns and counties.

38 E. The eight point type required by subsection A of this section
39 shall not apply to maps, charts or other graphics.

40 F. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "COMPLETE AND CORRECT
41 APPLICATION" MEANS AN APPLICATION THAT:

- 42 1. CONTAINS ALL OF THE REQUIRED INFORMATION.
- 43 2. INCLUDES A DESCRIPTION THAT DOES NOT EXCEED TWO HUNDRED WORDS.
- 44 3. IS IN THE MOST RECENT FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
- 45 FOR THIS PURPOSE.