

House Engrossed Senate Bill

~~board of directors; commerce authority.~~
(now: ballot measures; circulators; disclosure)

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SENATE BILL 1429

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 19-101, 19-102, 19-102.01, 19-118, 19-118.01 AND 19-141,
ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

(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, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 19-101. Referendum petition; circulators; violation;
5 classification

6 A. The following shall be the form for referring to the people by
7 referendum petition a measure or item, section or part of a measure
8 enacted by the legislature, or by the legislative body of an incorporated
9 city, town or county:

10 Referendum Description

11 (Insert a description of not more than two hundred words of the
12 principal provisions of the measure sought to be referred.)

13 Notice: This is only a description of the measure sought to be
14 referred prepared by the sponsor of the measure. It may not include every
15 provision contained in the measure. Before signing, make sure the title
16 and text of the measure are attached. You have the right to read or
17 examine the title and text before signing.

18 Petition for Referendum

19 To the secretary of state (or to the corresponding
20 officer for or on local, county, city or town measures):

21 We, the undersigned citizens and qualified electors of the
22 state of Arizona, respectfully order that the senate (or
23 house) bill No. _____ (or other local, county, city or town
24 measure) entitled (title of act or ordinance, and if the
25 petition is against less than the whole act or ordinance then
26 set forth here the item, section, or part, of any measure on
27 which the referendum is used), passed by the _____
28 session of the legislature of the state of Arizona, at the
29 general (or special, as the case may be) session of said
30 legislature, (or by a county, city or town legislative body)
31 shall be referred to a vote of the qualified electors of the
32 state, (county, city or town) for their approval or rejection
33 at the next regular general election (or county, city or town
34 election) and each for himself says:

35 I have personally signed this petition with my first and
36 last names. I have not signed any other petition for the same
37 measure. I am a qualified elector of the state of Arizona,
38 county of (or city or town and county of, as the case may be)
39 _____.

40 ~~Warning~~

41 It is a class 1 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly
42 sign an initiative or referendum petition with a name other
43 than his own, except in a circumstance where he signs for a
44 person, in the presence of and at the specific request of such

1 person, who is incapable of signing his own name because of
2 physical infirmity, or to knowingly sign his name more than
3 once for the same measure, or to knowingly sign such petition
4 when he is not a qualified elector."

5	Signature	Name	Actual	Arizona	City or	Date
6		(first and	address	post office	town	signed
7		last name	(street &	address	(if any)	
8		printed)	no. and if	& zip		
9			no street	code		
10			address,			
11			describe			
12			residence			
13			location)			

14 (Fifteen lines for signatures which shall be numbered)
15 The validity of signatures on this sheet must be sworn
16 to by the circulator before a notary public on the form
17 appearing on the back of the sheet.

18 Number _____
19 B. Each petition sheet shall have printed on the top of each sheet
20 the following:

21 "It is unlawful to sign this petition before it has a
22 serial number."

23 C. Each petition sheet shall have printed in capital letters in not
24 less than twelve point bold-faced type in the upper right-hand corner of
25 the face of the petition sheet and below the statement prescribed in
26 subsection B of this section the following:

27 "_____ paid circulator" "_____ volunteer"
28 **OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENT.**

29 D. A circulator of a referendum petition shall state whether the
30 circulator is a paid circulator, ~~or~~ volunteer **OR OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENT** by
31 checking ~~the appropriate line~~ **ALL APPLICABLE LINES REGARDING THE STATUS OF**
32 **THE CIRCULATOR** on the petition form before circulating the petition for
33 signatures.

34 E. Signatures obtained on referendum petitions in violation of
35 subsection D of this section are void and shall not be counted in
36 determining the legal sufficiency of the petition. The presence of
37 signatures that are invalidated under this subsection on a petition does
38 not invalidate other signatures on the petition that were obtained as
39 prescribed by this section.

40 Sec. 2. Section 19-102, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
41 read:

42 **19-102. Initiative petition; circulators**

43 A. The form of petition for a law or amendment to the constitution
44 of this state or county legislative measure, or city or town ordinance, or
45 amendment to a city or town charter proposed by the initiative to be

1 submitted directly to the electors, shall be substantially in the form
2 prescribed in section 19-101, except that the title and body of such
3 petition shall read:

4 Initiative description

5 (Insert a description of not more than two hundred words
6 of the principal provisions of the proposed measure or
7 constitutional amendment.)

8 Notice: This is only a description of the proposed measure (or
9 constitutional amendment) prepared by the sponsor of the measure. It may
10 not include every provision contained in the measure. Before signing,
11 make sure the title and text of the measure are attached. You have the
12 right to read or examine the title and text before signing.

13 Initiative Measure to be Submitted Directly to Electors

14 We, the undersigned, citizens and qualified electors of
15 the state of Arizona, respectfully demand that the following
16 proposed law (or amendment to the constitution, or other
17 initiative measure), shall be submitted to the qualified
18 electors of the state of Arizona (county, city or town of
19 _____) for their approval or rejection at the next
20 regular general election (or county, city or town election)
21 and each for himself says: (terminate form same as a
22 referendum petition.)

23 B. Each petition sheet shall have printed on the top of each sheet
24 the following:

25 ~~"It is unlawful to sign this petition before it has a~~
26 ~~serial number."~~

27 C. Each petition sheet shall have printed in capital letters in not
28 less than twelve point bold-faced type in the upper right-hand corner of
29 the face of the petition sheet and below the statement prescribed in
30 subsection B of this section the following:

31 ~~"_____ paid circulator" _____ volunteer" _____~~
32 **OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENT.**

33 D. A circulator of an initiative petition shall state whether the
34 circulator is a paid circulator ~~or~~, volunteer **OR OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENT** by
35 checking ~~the appropriate line~~ **ALL APPLICABLE LINES REGARDING THE STATUS OF**
36 **THE CIRCULATOR** on the petition form before circulating the petition for
37 signatures.

38 E. Signatures obtained on initiative petitions in violation of
39 subsection D of this section are void and shall not be counted in
40 determining the legal sufficiency of the petition. The presence of
41 signatures that are invalidated under this subsection on a petition does
42 not invalidate other signatures on the petition that were obtained as
43 prescribed by this section.

1 Sec. 3. Section 19-102.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
2 read:

3 19-102.01. Initiative petitions; standard of review

4 A. Constitutional and statutory requirements for ~~statewide~~
5 initiative measures must be strictly construed and persons using the
6 initiative process must strictly comply with those constitutional and
7 statutory requirements.

8 B. The secretary of state shall make available a sample initiative
9 petition that strictly complies with the requirements of section 19-121.
10 Any committee that uses the sample initiative petition provided by the
11 secretary of state shall be presumed to have strictly complied with the
12 requirements of section 19-121.

13 Sec. 4. Section 19-118, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
14 read:

15 19-118. Registered circulators; requirements; violation;
16 classification; definition

17 A. For ~~statewide~~ initiative and referendum measures ~~only~~, **INCLUDING**
18 **MEASURES GOVERNED BY SECTIONS 19-141, 19-142 AND 19-143**, all circulators
19 who are not residents of this state and all paid circulators must register
20 as circulators with the secretary of state before circulating petitions
21 pursuant to this title. The committee that is circulating the petition
22 shall collect and submit the completed registration applications to the
23 secretary of state. The secretary of state shall establish in the
24 instructions and procedures manual issued pursuant to section 16-452 a
25 procedure for registering circulators, including circulator registration
26 applications, and shall publish on a website maintained by the secretary
27 of state all information regarding circulators that is required pursuant
28 to this section. The secretary of state **OR OTHER FILING OFFICER, AS**
29 **APPLICABLE**, shall disqualify all signatures collected by a circulator who
30 fails to register pursuant to this subsection as provided for in section
31 19-121.01, subsection A.

32 B. The circulator registration application required by subsection A
33 of this section shall require the following:

34 1. The circulator's full name, residence address, telephone number
35 and email address.

36 2. The initiative or referendum petition on which the circulator
37 will gather signatures.

38 3. A statement that the circulator consents to the jurisdiction of
39 the courts of this state in resolving any disputes concerning the
40 circulation of petitions by that circulator.

41 4. The address of the committee in this state for which the
42 circulator is gathering signatures and at which the circulator will accept
43 service of process related to disputes concerning circulation of that
44 circulator's petitions. Service of process is effected under this section
45 by delivering a copy of the subpoena to that person individually, by

1 leaving a copy of the subpoena with a person of suitable age or by mailing
2 a copy of the subpoena to the committee by certified mail to the address
3 provided.

4 5. An affidavit from the registered circulator that is signed by
5 the circulator before a notary public and that includes the following
6 declaration:

7 I, _____ (print name) _____, under penalty of a class 1
8 misdemeanor, acknowledge that I am eligible to register as a
9 circulator in the state of Arizona, that all of the
10 information provided is correct to the best of my knowledge
11 and that I have read and understand Arizona election laws
12 applicable to the collection of signatures for ~~a statewide~~ AN
13 initiative or referendum.

14 C. Within five business days after submission and review of a
15 complete and correct circulator registration application that complies
16 with this section, the secretary of state shall register and assign a
17 circulator registration number to the circulator.

18 D. A person may not register as a circulator pursuant to this
19 section if the person:

20 1. Has had a civil or criminal penalty imposed for a violation of
21 title 16 or this title within the immediately preceding five years.

22 2. Has been convicted of treason or a felony and has not been
23 restored to civil rights as described in section 16-101, subsection A,
24 paragraph 5.

25 3. Has been convicted of any criminal offense involving fraud,
26 forgery or identity theft.

27 E. If a registered circulator is properly served with a subpoena to
28 provide evidence in an action regarding circulation of petitions and fails
29 to appear or produce documents as provided for in the subpoena, all
30 signatures collected by that circulator are deemed invalid. The party
31 serving the subpoena may request an order from the court directing the
32 secretary of state to remove any signatures collected by the circulator as
33 provided for in section 19-121.01, subsection A.

34 F. Any person may challenge the lawful registration of circulators
35 in the superior court of the county in which the circulator is registered.
36 A challenge may not be commenced more than ten business days after the
37 date that the secretary of state's office has received, processed and made
38 available all final petition sheets individually numbered. The person
39 challenging signatures may amend that complaint after the secretary of
40 state has removed signatures and signature sheets as prescribed in section
41 19-121.01. An action pursuant to this section shall be advanced on the
42 calendar and decided by the court as soon as possible. Either party may
43 appeal to the supreme court within five calendar days after entry of
44 judgment. The prevailing party in an action to challenge the registration

1 of a circulator under this section is entitled to reasonable attorney
2 fees.

3 G. The removal or disqualification of any one or more circulators
4 does not invalidate the random sample of signatures made pursuant to
5 section 19-121.01, and the secretary of state shall not be required to
6 conduct any additional random sampling of signatures.

7 H. A person who knowingly omits or misrepresents information or
8 provides false information on a circulator registration application or who
9 registers in violation of this section is guilty of a class 1 misdemeanor.

10 I. For the purposes of this title, "paid circulator":

11 1. Means a natural person who receives monetary or other
12 compensation for obtaining signatures on ~~a statewide~~ AN initiative or
13 referendum petition or for circulating ~~statewide~~ initiative or referendum
14 petitions for signatures.

15 2. Does not include a paid employee of any political committee
16 organized pursuant to title 16, chapter 6, unless that employee has or
17 will obtain two hundred or more signatures on an initiative, referendum or
18 recall petition in an election cycle.

19 Sec. 5. Section 19-118.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
20 read:

21 19-118.01. Signature collection; prohibited payments;
22 violation; classification

23 A. A person shall not pay or receive money or any other thing of
24 value based on the number of signatures collected on ~~a statewide~~ AN
25 initiative or referendum petition. Signatures that are obtained by a paid
26 circulator who violates this section are void and shall not be counted in
27 determining the legal sufficiency of the petition.

28 B. A violation of this section is a class 1 misdemeanor.

29 Sec. 6. Section 19-141, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
30 read:

31 19-141. Initiative and referendum in counties, cities and
32 towns

33 A. This chapter applies to the legislation of cities, towns and
34 counties, except as specifically provided to the contrary in this
35 article. The duties required of the secretary of state as to state
36 legislation shall be performed in connection with such legislation by the
37 city or town clerk, county officer in charge of elections or person
38 performing the duties ~~as such~~ OF THAT OFFICE. The duties required of the
39 governor shall be performed by the mayor or the chairman of the board of
40 supervisors, the duties required of the attorney general shall be
41 performed by the city, town or county attorney, and the printing and
42 binding of measures and arguments shall be paid for by the city, town or
43 county in like manner as payment is provided for by the state with respect
44 to state legislation. The provisions of section 19-124 with respect to
45 the legislative council analysis do not apply in connection with

1 initiatives and referenda in cities, towns and counties. The printing
2 shall be done in the same manner as other municipal or county printing is
3 done.

4 B. Distribution of pamphlets shall be made to every household
5 containing a registered voter in the city, town or county by the city or
6 town clerk or by the county officer in charge of elections by mail before
7 the earliest date for receipt by registered voters of any requested early
8 ballot for the election at which the measures are to be voted on. If the
9 pamphlet is not mailed before the earliest date for receipt of a requested
10 early ballot, the officer in charge of elections shall provide a notice
11 with the early ballots stating when the pamphlets will be mailed and where
12 and when the pamphlets may be accessed or viewed. Any contract for
13 pamphlet publication or mailing, or both, shall provide for the contractor
14 to pay a penalty for each day of mailing that occurs on or after the
15 earliest date for receipt of requested early ballots. The penalty shall be
16 ~~one cent~~ \$.01 for each household with a registered voter for each day of
17 late mailing, and the monies shall be paid to the office of the officer in
18 charge of elections. Pamphlets shall not be mailed or carried less than
19 ten days before the election at which the measures are to be voted ~~upon~~
20 ON.

21 C. Arguments supporting or opposing municipal or county initiative
22 and referendum measures shall be filed with the city or town clerk or the
23 county officer in charge of elections not less than ninety days before the
24 election at which they are to be voted ~~upon~~ ON.

25 D. The procedure with respect to municipal and county legislation
26 shall be as nearly as practicable the same as the procedure relating to
27 initiative and referendum provided for the state at large, except the
28 procedure for verifying signatures on initiative or referendum petitions
29 may be established by a city or town by charter or ordinance. ANY
30 MUNICIPAL OR COUNTY INITIATIVE OR REFERENDUM MEASURE THAT PROPOSES A
31 MANDATORY EXPENDITURE, ESTABLISHES A FUND FOR ANY SPECIFIC PURPOSE OR
32 ALLOCATES FUNDING FOR ANY SPECIFIC PURPOSE MUST PROVIDE A DISCLOSURE OF
33 THE EXPENDITURE, FUND OR ALLOCATION AND THE SOURCE OF INCREASED REVENUES
34 SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE ENTIRE IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE COSTS OF THE
35 PROPOSAL. THIS DISCLOSURE SHALL BE PROVIDED IN THE INITIATIVE OR
36 REFERENDUM DESCRIPTION PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 19-101 OR 19-102.

37 E. References in this section to duties to be performed by city or
38 town officers apply only with respect to municipal legislation, and
39 references to duties to be performed by county officers apply only with
40 respect to county legislation.

41 F. The duties required of the county recorder with respect to state
42 legislation shall also be performed by the county recorder with respect to
43 municipal or county legislation.