

REFERENCE TITLE: candidate petitions; felony disclosure

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2557

Introduced by
Representatives Nguyen: Bliss, Carbone, Carter P, Griffin, Marshall,
Pingerelli, Way, Willoughby

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 13-911, 16-314 AND 16-341, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO NOMINATING PETITIONS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Section 13-911, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 13-911. Sealing of arrest, conviction and sentencing records;
5 requirements; fee; appeal; definition

6 A. A person may file a petition to seal all case records related to
7 a criminal offense if the person was:

8 1. Convicted of a criminal offense and has completed all of the
9 terms and conditions of the sentence that was imposed by the court,
10 including the payment of all monetary obligations and restitution to all
11 victims.

12 2. Charged with a criminal offense and the charge was subsequently
13 dismissed or resulted in a not guilty verdict at a trial.

14 3. Arrested for a criminal offense and no charges were filed.

15 B. All case records that are sealed pursuant to this section may
16 be:

17 1. Alleged as an element of an offense.

18 2. Used as a historical prior felony conviction.

19 3. Admissible for impeaching any party or witness in a subsequent
20 trial.

21 4. Used to enhance the sentence for a subsequent felony.

22 5. Used to enhance the sentence pursuant to sections 28-1381 and
23 28-1382.

24 6. Pleaded and proved in any subsequent prosecution of the person
25 by this state or a political subdivision of this state.

26 7. Used as a conviction if the conviction would be admissible if
27 the conviction was not sealed.

28 C. The person shall file a petition to seal all case records in one
29 of the following:

30 1. The court in which the person was convicted of an offense.

31 2. The court in which an indictment, information, criminal citation
32 or complaint against the person was filed and the charges were dismissed,
33 the person was found not guilty or the person's conviction was vacated,
34 except that if the complaint was filed in a justice court and a subsequent
35 information was filed, the petition must be filed in the superior court.

36 3. The court in which the person had an initial appearance if
37 charges were not filed.

38 4. The superior court in the county where a person was arrested if
39 the person did not have an initial appearance and no charges were filed.

40 D. The court may not grant or deny a petition to seal a person's
41 case records until sixty calendar days after the court receives the
42 petition unless the court receives notice that both the prosecutor and all
43 victims who have made a request for postconviction notice do not object to
44 the petition. Unless the petitioner, prosecutor or victim requests a
45 hearing, the court may grant or deny a petition to seal case records

1 without a hearing. The court may dismiss a petition that does not meet
2 the requirements prescribed in this section without a hearing. The court
3 shall grant the petition if the court determines that granting the
4 petition is in the best interests of the petitioner and the public's
5 safety. The clerk of the court shall provide a copy of the petition to
6 seal case records to the prosecutor. The prosecutor may respond to the
7 petition and request a hearing. The victim has a right to be present and
8 heard at any proceeding in which the defendant has filed a petition to
9 seal case records. If the victim has made a request for postconviction
10 notice, the prosecutor shall provide the victim with notice of the
11 defendant's petition and of the victim's rights under this section.

12 E. At the time of sentencing, the court shall inform the person on
13 the record that the person may be eligible to petition the court for an
14 order that seals all case records of the person's arrest, conviction and
15 sentence that are related to the offense pursuant to this section and
16 shall provide this notice in writing. A person who was convicted of any
17 eligible offense may petition the court to seal the person's records of
18 arrest, conviction and sentence after the person completes all of the
19 nonmonetary terms and conditions of the person's sentence ordered by the
20 court, and the following period of time has passed since the person
21 completed the nonmonetary conditions of probation or sentence and was
22 discharged by the court:

- 23 1. Ten years for a class 2 or 3 felony.
- 24 2. Five years for a class 4, 5 or 6 felony.
- 25 3. Three years for a class 1 misdemeanor.
- 26 4. Two years for a class 2 or 3 misdemeanor.

27 F. A person whose case records have been sealed pursuant to
28 subsection E of this section and who commits a subsequent felony offense
29 may petition the court pursuant to subsection E of this section to seal
30 the person's records of arrest, conviction and sentence relating to the
31 subsequent felony offense after the applicable period of time prescribed
32 in subsection E of this section for the subsequent felony offense has
33 expired and an additional five years have passed.

34 G. A petitioner is required to have paid all fines, fees and
35 restitution ordered by the court at the time of filing the petition to be
36 eligible to seal case records pursuant to this section.

37 H. After a petition to seal case records is filed, the court shall
38 notify the department of public safety and request the department to
39 prepare and submit a report to the court that includes all of the
40 petitioner's state and federal arrests, prosecutions and convictions and
41 any other information that the court requests or that the department
42 believes will assist the court in making its determination. The director
43 may charge the petitioner a fee that is determined by the director for the
44 investigation unless the petitioner is indigent or has been found not

1 guilty or the case was dismissed or not prosecuted and the petition is
2 filed pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 2 or 3 of this section.

3 I. If the court grants a petition to seal case records:

4 1. The court shall issue an order sealing all records relating to
5 the petitioner's arrest, conviction and sentence and directing the clerk
6 of the court to notify the department of public safety and the prosecutor
7 of the sealing order.

8 2. On order of a court, the clerk of the court shall seal all case
9 records relating to the petitioner's arrest, conviction and sentence. A
10 court order to seal case records pursuant to this section is subject only
11 to the disclosure requirements in this section and shall be treated
12 differently than a record that is sealed pursuant to any other statute or
13 court rule. The clerk shall create and manage a system for sealing case
14 records pursuant to this section and for providing sealed case records to
15 an entity or person that is listed in subsection J of this section and
16 that requests the record. On the request of an entity or person listed in
17 subsection J of this section, the clerk shall provide the entity or person
18 with any sealed case records. The clerk may not provide sealed case
19 records pursuant to this section to any person or entity that is not
20 listed in subsection J of this section.

21 3. The department of public safety shall designate the case records
22 as sealed within the department's records and inform all appropriate state
23 and federal law enforcement agencies of the sealing. The department may
24 not share or provide sealed case records with any person or entity or for
25 any purpose that is not listed in subsections B and J of this section.
26 The department may charge the successful petitioner a fee determined by
27 the director to research and correct the petitioner's criminal history
28 record unless the petitioner is indigent or has been found not guilty or
29 the case has been dismissed or not prosecuted and the petition is filed
30 pursuant to subsection C, paragraph 2 or 3 of this section.

31 4. The arresting and prosecuting agencies shall clearly identify in
32 each agency's files and electronic records that the petitioner's arrest or
33 conviction and sentence records are sealed.

34 5. A person whose records are sealed pursuant to this section may
35 state, in all instances, that the person has never been arrested for,
36 charged with or convicted of the crime that is the subject of the arrest
37 or conviction, including in response to questions on employment, housing,
38 financial aid or loan applications unless any of the following applies:

39 (a) The person is submitting an application that requires a
40 fingerprint clearance card pursuant to title 41, chapter 12, article 3.1.

41 (b) The sealed case records involved a class 2 or class 3 felony
42 violation of chapter 34 of this title.

1 (c) The sealed case records involved burglary under section
2 13-1506, 13-1507 or 13-1508, theft under section 13-1802 or organized
3 retail theft under section 13-1819 from a residential or nonresidential
4 structure and the person is applying for a job that requires entering into
5 and performing services inside of a residential structure.

6 (d) The sealed case records involved child abuse under section
7 13-3623 or aggravated assault under section 13-1204 and the person is
8 applying for a job involving supervising, educating or administering care
9 to a minor.

10 (e) The sealed case records involved vulnerable adult abuse under
11 section 13-3623 and the person is applying for a job involving supervising
12 or administering care to a vulnerable adult or a person who is at least
13 sixty-five years of age.

14 (f) The sealed case records involved a violation of section
15 5-395.01, 5-396, 5-397, 13-1814, 28-1381, 28-1382, 28-1383, 28-8282,
16 28-8284, 28-8286, 28-8287 or 28-8288 and the person is applying for a job
17 involving the commercial or private operation of a motor vehicle, boat or
18 airplane.

19 (g) The sealed case records involved a violation of chapter 18, 19,
20 20, 21, 22 or 23 of this title or telecommunication fraud under section
21 13-3707 and the person is applying for a job involving accounting,
22 overseeing, transporting, handling or managing another person's money or
23 financial assets.

24 (h) The person is applying for a position with a law enforcement
25 agency, a prosecutor's office, a court, a probation department, a child
26 welfare agency as defined in section 8-501, the department of child
27 safety, the department of juvenile corrections or the state department of
28 corrections.

29 (i) The person is undergoing a background check for the placement
30 with that person of a child who is in the custody of the department of
31 child safety.

32 (j) The disclosure is required by a state or federal law.

33 (k) The disclosure is required to comply with program integrity
34 provisions of medicare, medicaid or any other federal health care program.

35 (l) THE PERSON IS A CANDIDATE SUBMITTING A NOMINATION PETITION
36 PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-314 OR 16-341 AND WAS CONVICTED OF OR ADJUDICATED
37 DELINQUENT OR GUILTY EXCEPT INSANE FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES:

38 (i) A VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 14 OR 35 OF THIS TITLE THAT INVOLVES A
39 MINOR.

40 (ii) CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-3212.

41 (iii) A VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 35.1 OF THIS TITLE.

42 (iv) A DANGEROUS CRIME AGAINST CHILDREN PURSUANT TO SECTION 13-705.

1 6. The person's employer is not liable for hiring or contracting
2 with the person as prescribed in section 12-558.03.

3 J. If the person's case records are sealed pursuant to this
4 section, the records shall be made available for the purposes listed in
5 subsection B of this section and to the following:

6 1. The person whose records are sealed and any attorney who has
7 filed a notice of appearance on behalf of the person whose records are
8 sealed.

9 2. The victim in the case if the victim has exercised victims'
10 rights pursuant to section 13-4414.

11 3. Any of the following if the purpose relates to the operation of
12 the requesting party's official duties or internal hiring practices, or
13 both:

14 (a) A law enforcement agency.

15 (b) A prosecuting agency. On request of a person who is charged
16 with a criminal offense or that person's attorney of record, a prosecuting
17 agency shall provide the sealed case records of any person whom the
18 prosecuting agency intends to call as a witness in that person's
19 prosecution.

20 (c) A probation department or any agency that is responsible for
21 the preparation of a presentence report.

22 (d) A court.

23 (e) The department of child safety or a child welfare agency as
24 defined in section 8-501.

25 (f) The department of juvenile corrections.

26 (g) The state department of corrections or any other correctional
27 facility in this state.

28 (h) The clerk of the court or any department that is responsible
29 for maintaining court records.

30 K. This section does not require the supreme court or the court of
31 appeals to seal any record.

32 L. If the court denies a petition to seal case records, a person
33 may not file a new petition until three years after the date of the
34 denial.

35 M. A conviction for an offense that is committed in another
36 jurisdiction and that if committed in this state would not constitute an
37 offense in this state may not be used against the petitioner or prohibit
38 the petitioner from having a record sealed. For the purposes of this
39 section, the classification of an offense committed in another
40 jurisdiction has the classification that the offense would have if
41 committed in this state.

42 N. If the petitioner has a charge pending or is charged with an
43 offense after filing a petition to seal case records pursuant to
44 subsection C, paragraph 3 or 4 of this section and the charge could result
45 in a conviction that cannot be sealed or that could extend the time to

1 file a petition to seal case records, the court may not grant or deny the
2 petition until the court disposes of that charge.

3 0. The following offenses are not eligible to be sealed pursuant to
4 this section:

5 1. A dangerous offense as defined in section 13-105.

6 2. A dangerous crime against children as defined in section 13-705.

7 3. A serious offense or violent or aggravated felony as defined in
8 section 13-706.

9 4. Any offense that has either of the following as an element of
10 the offense:

11 (a) The discharge, use or threatening exhibition of a deadly weapon
12 or dangerous instrument.

13 (b) The knowing infliction of serious physical injury on another
14 person.

15 5. Sex trafficking pursuant to section 13-1307.

16 6. A class 2, 3, 4 or 5 felony offense that is included in chapter
17 14 or 35.1 of this title.

18 P. This section does not affect any of the following:

19 1. The right of the person whose case records are sealed to appeal
20 the conviction or sentence or to rely on it in bar of any subsequent
21 proceeding for the same offense.

22 2. The right of a law enforcement agency to maintain an arrest and
23 conviction record and to communicate information regarding the sealed
24 record of arrest or conviction to prosecuting agencies, courts, probation
25 departments and other law enforcement agencies for a purpose listed in
26 subsection J of this section or in defense of a civil action that arises
27 out of the facts of the arrest or to the Arizona peace officer standards
28 and training board solely to assist the board in determining the fitness
29 of a person to serve as a peace officer, except that in any of these cases
30 the information may not be disclosed to any person or entity that is not
31 listed in subsection J of this section.

32 3. The department of public safety or the board of fingerprinting
33 from considering a conviction that is sealed pursuant to this section when
34 evaluating an application for a fingerprint clearance card pursuant to
35 section 41-1758.03 or 41-1758.07, except that the board of fingerprinting
36 shall consider sealed case records as a mitigating circumstance in
37 determining whether to grant a good cause exception pursuant to section
38 41-619.55.

39 4. A court from issuing a lifetime injunction pursuant to section
40 13-719 or the validity of a lifetime injunction that was issued pursuant
41 to section 13-719.

42 Q. For the purposes of this section, "case records" means all
43 records that pertain to a person's arrest, conviction and sentence for a
44 particular offense and that may be sealed pursuant to this section.

1 be held _____, and hereby declare that I am
2 qualified to vote for this office and that I have not signed
3 and will not sign any nomination petitions for more persons
4 than the number of candidates necessary to fill such office at
5 the next ensuing election. I further declare that if I choose
6 to use a post office box address on this petition, my
7 residence address has not changed since I last reported it to
8 the county recorder for purposes of updating my voter
9 registration file.

10 ~~B.~~ C. The nomination petition of a person seeking to fill an
11 unexpired vacant term for any public office shall designate the expiration
12 date of the term following the name of the office being sought.

13 D. FOR ANY CANDIDATE WHO CIRCULATES A NOMINATION PETITION PURSUANT
14 TO THIS SECTION, THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THE NOMINATION PETITION
15 SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROVISION IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FOLLOWING FORM,
16 WHICH SHALL BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE:

17 TO BE COMPLETED BY CANDIDATE:
18 HAS THE CANDIDATE EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF OR ADJUDICATED
19 DELINQUENT OR GUILTY EXCEPT INSANE FOR A FELONY SEXUAL OFFENSE
20 INVOLVING A MINOR IN ANY STATE, INCLUDING ANY CONVICTION THAT
21 WAS SEALED, EXPUNGED, SET ASIDE OR OTHERWISE LEGALLY
22 NULLIFIED? CHECK ONE:
23 YES ____
24 NO ____

25 SECTION 13-911, SUBSECTION I, PARAGRAPH 5, SUBDIVISION
26 (1), ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, REQUIRES THE CANDIDATE TO MARK
27 "YES" IF THE FELONY CONVICTION WAS SEALED, EXPUNGED, SET ASIDE
28 OR OTHERWISE LEGALLY NULLIFIED.

29 ~~B.~~ E. For the purposes of this title, "nomination petition" means
30 the form or forms used for obtaining the required number of signatures of
31 qualified electors, which is circulated by or on behalf of the person
32 wishing to become a candidate for a political office.

33 Sec. 3. Section 16-341, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
34 read:

35 16-341. Nomination petition; method and time of filing; form;
36 qualifications and number of petitioners required;
37 statement of interest

38 A. Any qualified elector who is not a registered member of a
39 political party that is recognized pursuant to this title may be nominated
40 as a candidate for public office otherwise than by primary election or by
41 party committee pursuant to this section.

1 B. This article shall not be used to place on the general election
2 ballot the name of a political party that fails to meet the qualifications
3 specified in section 16-802 or 16-804, or the name of any candidate
4 representing such party or the name of a candidate who has filed a
5 nomination petition in the immediately preceding primary election and has
6 failed to qualify as the result of an insufficient number of valid
7 signatures.

8 C. A nomination petition stating the name of the office to be
9 filled, the name and residence of the candidate, or, if the candidate does
10 not have an actual residence address, a description of place of residence
11 and post office address, or, if the person's actual residence address is
12 protected pursuant to section 16-153, a post office box or private mailbox
13 address in the candidate's district, precinct or municipality, as
14 applicable for a district, precinct or municipal office, and other
15 information required by this section shall be filed with the same officer
16 with whom primary nomination papers and petitions are required to be filed
17 as prescribed in section 16-311. Except for candidates for the office of
18 presidential elector filed pursuant to this section, the petition shall be
19 filed not less than one hundred twenty days nor more than one hundred
20 fifty days before the primary election. The petition shall be signed only
21 by voters who have not signed the nomination petitions of a candidate for
22 the office to be voted for at that primary election.

23 D. The nomination petition shall be in substantially the following
24 form, except that if the candidate does not have an actual residence
25 address, the candidate may use a description of place of residence and
26 post office address, or, if the candidate's actual residence address is
27 protected pursuant to section 16-153, a post office box or private mailbox
28 address in the candidate's district, precinct or municipality, as
29 applicable for a district, precinct or municipal office, is sufficient:

30 The undersigned, qualified electors of _____
31 county, state of Arizona, do hereby nominate _____, who
32 resides at _____ in the county of _____, as a
33 candidate for the office of _____ at the general (or
34 special, as the case may be) election to be held on the
35 _____ day of _____, ____.

36 I hereby declare that I have not signed the nomination
37 petitions of any candidate for the office to be voted for at
38 this primary election, and I do hereby select the following
39 designation under which name the said candidate shall be
40 placed on the official ballot (here insert such designation
41 not exceeding three words in length as the signers may
42 select).

1 E. FOR ANY CANDIDATE WHO CIRCULATES A NOMINATION PETITION PURSUANT
2 TO THIS SECTION, THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THE NOMINATION PETITION
3 SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PROVISION IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FOLLOWING FORM,
4 WHICH SHALL BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE:

5 TO BE COMPLETED BY CANDIDATE:

6 HAS THE CANDIDATE EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF OR ADJUDICATED
7 DELINQUENT OR GUILTY EXCEPT INSANE FOR A FELONY SEXUAL OFFENSE
8 INVOLVING A MINOR IN ANY STATE, INCLUDING ANY CONVICTION THAT
9 WAS SEALED, EXPUNGED, SET ASIDE OR OTHERWISE LEGALLY
10 NULLIFIED? CHECK ONE:

11 YES ___

12 NO ___

13 SECTION 13-911, SUBSECTION I, PARAGRAPH 5, SUBDIVISION
14 (1), ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, REQUIRES THE CANDIDATE TO MARK
15 "YES" IF THE FELONY CONVICTION WAS SEALED, EXPUNGED, SET ASIDE
16 OR OTHERWISE LEGALLY NULLIFIED.

17 ~~F.~~ F. The nomination petition shall conform as nearly as possible
18 to the provisions relating to nomination petitions of candidates to be
19 voted for at primary elections and shall be signed by at least the number
20 of persons who are registered to vote determined by calculating three
21 percent of the persons who are registered to vote of the state, county,
22 subdivision or district for which the candidate is nominated who are not
23 members of a political party that is qualified to be represented by an
24 official party ballot at the next ensuing primary election and accorded
25 representation on the general election ballot.

26 ~~F.~~ G. The percentage of persons who are registered to vote
27 necessary to sign the nomination petition shall be determined by the total
28 number of registered voters from other than political parties that are
29 qualified to be represented by an official party ballot at the next
30 ensuing primary election and accorded representation on the general
31 election ballot in the state, county, subdivision or district on January 2
32 of the year in which the general election is held. Notwithstanding the
33 method prescribed by subsection ~~F~~ F of this section and this subsection
34 for calculating the minimum number of signatures necessary, any person who
35 is registered to vote in the state, county, subdivision or district for
36 which the candidate is nominated is eligible to sign the nomination
37 petition without regard to the signer's party affiliation.

38 ~~G.~~ H. A nomination petition for any candidate may be circulated by
39 a person who is not a resident of this state but who is otherwise eligible
40 to register to vote in this state if that person registers as a circulator
41 with the secretary of state before circulating petitions. The nomination
42 petition for the office of presidential elector shall include a group of
43 names of candidates equal to the number of United States senators and
44 representatives in Congress from this state instead of separate nomination
45 petitions for each candidate for the office of presidential elector. A

1 valid signature on a petition containing a group of presidential electors
2 candidates is counted as a signature for the nomination of each of the
3 candidates. The presidential candidate whom the candidates for
4 presidential elector will represent shall designate in writing to the
5 secretary of state the names of the candidates who will represent the
6 presidential candidate before any signatures for the candidate can be
7 accepted for filing. A nomination petition for the office of presidential
8 elector shall be filed not less than eighty nor more than one hundred days
9 before the general election. The petition shall be signed only by
10 qualified electors who have not signed the nomination petitions of a
11 candidate for the office of presidential elector to be voted for at that
12 election.

13 ~~H~~ I. The secretary of state shall require in the instructions and
14 procedures manual issued pursuant to section 16-452 that persons who
15 circulate nomination petitions pursuant to this section and who are not
16 residents of this state but who are otherwise eligible to register to vote
17 in this state shall register as circulators with the office of the
18 secretary of state before circulating petitions. The secretary of state
19 shall provide for a method of receiving service of process for those
20 petition circulators who are registered.

21 ~~I~~ J. Not later than the date of the first petition signature on a
22 nomination petition, a person who may be a candidate for office pursuant
23 to this section shall file a statement of interest with the appropriate
24 filing officer for that office. The statement of interest shall contain
25 the name of the person, the political party, if any, and the name of the
26 office that may be sought. Any nomination petition signatures collected
27 before the date the statement of interest is filed are invalid and subject
28 to challenge. This subsection does not apply to:

29 1. Candidates for elected office for special taxing districts that
30 are established pursuant to title 48.

31 2. Candidates for precinct committeeman.

32 3. Candidates for president or vice president of the United States.

33 ~~J~~ K. A person who files a nomination paper pursuant to this
34 section for the office of president of the United States shall designate
35 in writing to the secretary of state at the time of filing the name of the
36 candidate's vice presidential running mate, the names of the presidential
37 electors who will represent that candidate and a statement that is signed
38 by the vice presidential running mate and the designated presidential
39 electors and that indicates their consent to be designated. A nomination
40 paper for each presidential elector designated shall be filed with the
41 candidate's nomination paper. The number of presidential electors shall
42 equal the number of United States senators and representatives in Congress
43 from this state.

1 ~~K~~. L. A candidate who does not file a timely nomination petition
2 that complies with this section is not eligible to have the candidate's
3 name printed on the official ballot for that office. The filing officer
4 shall not accept the nomination paper of a candidate for state or local
5 office unless the candidate provides or has provided all of the following:

6 1. The financial disclosure statement as prescribed for candidates
7 for that office.

8 2. The declaration of qualification and eligibility as prescribed
9 in section 16-311.

10 ~~L~~. M. Not later than sixty days before the date of the general
11 election, a candidate for governor who files a nomination petition
12 pursuant to this section shall submit to the secretary of state the name
13 of the person who will be the joint candidate for lieutenant governor with
14 that gubernatorial candidate and whose name will appear on the general
15 election ballot jointly with the candidate for governor.

16 ~~M~~. N. Except in cases where the liability is being appealed, the
17 filing officer shall not accept the nomination paper of a candidate for
18 state or local office if the person is liable for an aggregation of \$1,000
19 or more in fines, penalties, late fees or administrative or civil
20 judgments, including any interest or costs, in any combination, that have
21 not been fully satisfied at the time of the attempted filing of the
22 nomination paper and the liability arose from failure to comply with or
23 enforcement of chapter 6 of this title.

24 ~~N~~. O. The secretary of state may authorize for statewide and
25 legislative offices the creation, use and submission of petitions
26 prescribed by this section in electronic form if those petitions provide
27 for an appropriate method to verify signatures of petition circulators and
28 signers. The secretary of state may require use of a unique marking system
29 for petition pages, including a bar code, a quick response code or another
30 similar marking system.