

HB 837 -- Initiative and Referendum Petitions

Sponsor: Storch

This bill changes the laws regarding initiative and referendum petitions. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires petition circulators to be residents of Missouri;
- (2) Prohibits individuals who have been convicted of, found guilty of, or pled guilty to a forgery offense from serving as petition circulators;
- (3) Prohibits petition circulators from being compensated based on the number of signatures collected;
- (4) Specifies that anyone who knowingly signs a name other than his or her own to a petition will be guilty of a class one election offense that is punishable by up to five years in prison or a fine of not less than \$2,500 or greater than \$10,000; and
- (5) Imposes a \$500 deposit fee for the submission of a sample sheet required to be filed with the Office of the Secretary of State prior to the circulation for signatures for petitions. Upon the certification of a proposed measure as having a sufficient number of signatures, the deposit must be immediately refunded. If the ballot measure is not certified for the general election, the deposit will be forfeited and deposited into the General Revenue Fund.