

HB 290 -- PETITION REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Sommer

This bill changes the format of signature sheets and modifies certain criteria for the class A misdemeanor crime of knowingly signing a petition using the wrong name, signing without being a registered voter, or signing the same petition more than once. The bill modifies the affidavit accompanying the signature to affirm the individual has not been convicted of, plead guilty to, or found guilty of perjury instead of forgery.

The Secretary of State shall make petition sheets available in an electronic format for printing and circulation.

There is a \$500 filing fee for each initiative or referendum petition sample sheet with an additional \$25 fee per page of text in excess of 10 pages. The fee is refundable if the petition is approved for circulation.

Initiative petitions may not invalidate or modify federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, or court decisions, amend federal or constitutional provisions, or accomplish any act delegated to the General Assembly under the Constitution of the United States.

This bill creates the "Secretary of State's Signature Verification Fund." The fund consists of money's a \$.40 fee per signature that is collected when a paid circulator is used to gather signatures for initiatives or referendums.

The procedure for counting or evaluating signatures are specified in the bill. The bill specifies that any court ordered changes to a ballot title results in the invalidation of signatures collected prior to the order.

The bill has an emergency clause.