FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 490

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHROER.

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To repeal sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.080, 116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 116.153, 116.190, 116.200, 116.332, and 116.334, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twelve new sections relating to procedures for ballot measures submitted to the people, with penalty provisions and an effective date for certain sections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

1908S.01I

Section A. Sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.080,
116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 116.153, 116.190, 116.200, 116.332,
and 116.334, RSMo, are repealed and twelve new sections enacted
in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 116.030, 116.040,
116.045, 116.050, 116.080, 116.090, 116.110, 116.130, 116.190,
116.200, 116.332, and 116.334, to read as follows:

116.030. The following shall be substantially the form of each page of referendum petitions on any law passed by the general assembly of the state of Missouri:

4	County
5	Page No.

6 It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the 7 provisions of section [560.021] 558.002, RSMo, to the 8 contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year 9 in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any referendum petition 10 with any name other than his or her own, or knowingly to 11 sign his or her name more than once for the same measure 12 for the same election, or to sign a petition when such 13 person knows he or she is not a registered voter.

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

14 15		
16	PETITION FOR REFERENDUM	
17 18	To the Honorable, Secretary of State for the state of Missouri:	
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 33 34	We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri and County (or City of St. Louis), respectfully order that the Senate (or House) Bill No. entitled (title of law), passed by the general assembly of the state of Missouri, at the regular (or special) session of the general assembly, shall be referred to the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the general election to be held on the day of,, unless the general assembly shall designate another date, and each for himself or herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I am a registered voter of the state of Missouri and County (or City of St. Louis); my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or village in which I live are correctly written after my name.	
35	(Official Ballot title)	
36	CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT	
37	State Of Missouri,	
38	County Of	
39 40	I,, being first duly sworn, say (print or type names of signers)	
41 42	NAME DATE REGISTERED ZIP CONGR. NAME SIGNED VOTING ADDRESS CODE DIST.	
43 44	(Signature) (Street) (Printed or (City,	
45 46	Town or Typed) Village)	
47	(Here follow numbered lines for signers)	
48 49 50	signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I believe that each has stated his or her name, registered	

voting address and city, town or village correctly, and 51 that each signer is a registered voter of the state of 52 Missouri and ____ County. 53 54 FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND CORRECT 55 AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, 56 57 OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING FORGERY. 58 I have met the qualifications of section 116.080 and am at 59 least 18 years of age. I do do not (check 60 one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If 61 paid, list the payer 62 63 Signature of Affiant 64 (Person obtaining signatures) 65 66 67 (Printed Name of Affiant) 68 Address of Affiant 69 70 Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of ____, A.D. ____ 71 72 73 Signature of Notary Address of Notary 74 Notary Public (Seal) 75 76 My commission expires

77 If this form is followed substantially and the requirements 78 of [section] sections 116.045, 116.050, and [section] 79 116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding 80 clerical and merely technical errors.

116.040. The following shall be substantially the form 2 of each page of each petition for any law or amendment to 3 the Constitution of the state of Missouri proposed by the initiative: 4 5 County _____ Page No. ____ 6 7 It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of section [560.021] 558.002, RSMo, to 8 the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed 9 one year in the county jail or a fine not to exceed ten 10 thousand dollars or both, for anyone to sign any 11 initiative petition with any name other than his or her 12 13 own, or knowingly to sign his or her name more than once for the same measure for the same election, or to 14 15 sign a petition when such person knows he or she is not a registered voter. 16 17 INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable , Secretary of State for the 18 state of Missouri: 19 20 We, the undersigned, registered voters of the state of Missouri and County (or City of St. Louis), 21 22 respectfully order that the following proposed law (or 23 amendment to the constitution) shall be submitted to 24 the voters of the state of Missouri, for their approval or rejection, at the general election to be held on the 25 day of _____, ____, and each for himself or 26 herself says: I have personally signed this petition; I 27 am a registered voter of the state of Missouri and 28 29 County (or City of St. Louis); my registered voting address and the name of the city, town or 30 31 village in which I live are correctly written after my name. (Official Ballot title) 32 CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT 33 34 State Of Missouri, County Of _____ 35

I, , being first duly sworn, say (print or type 36 names of signers) 37 38 NAME DATE REGISTERED ZIP CONGR. NAME 39 SIGNED VOTING ADDRESS CODE DIST. 40 (Signatur (Street) (City, (Printed 41 e) or 42 Town or Typed) Village) (Here follow numbered lines for signers) 43 44 signed this page of the foregoing petition, and each of them signed his or her name thereto in my presence; I 45 believe that each has stated his or her name, 46 registered voting address and city, town or village 47 correctly, and that each signer is a registered voter 48 of the state of Missouri and ____ County. 49 FURTHERMORE, I HEREBY SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER PENALTY OF 50 51 PERJURY THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE BY ME ARE TRUE AND 52 CORRECT AND THAT I HAVE NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF, FOUND GUILTY OF, OR PLED GUILTY TO ANY OFFENSE INVOLVING 53 FORGERY. 54 I have met the qualifications of section 116.080 and \mbox{am} 55 at least 18 years of age. I do do not 56 57 (check one) expect to be paid for circulating this petition. If paid, list the payer 58 59 60 Signature of Affiant (Person obtaining signatures) 61 62 63 (Printed Name of Affiant) 64 Address of Affiant 65 Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of 66 ____, A.D. ____ 67 68

69	Signature of Notary
70	Address of Notary

71 Notary Public (Seal)

72 My commission expires

73 If this form is followed substantially and the requirements 74 of [section] sections 116.045, 116.050, and [section] 75 116.080 are met, it shall be sufficient, disregarding 76 clerical and merely technical errors.

116.045. Initiative and referendum petition signature pages shall be printed on a form as prescribed by the secretary of state, which shall include all of the information and statements set forth in section 116.030 or 116.040, as applicable, and comply with section 116.050. The form shall be made available in electronic format for printing and circulating petitions.

116.050. 1. Initiative and referendum petitions filed 2 under the provisions of this chapter shall consist of pages 3 of a uniform size. Each page, excluding the text of the 4 measure, shall be no larger than eight and one-half by The text of the proposed measure shall be 5 fourteen inches. in a font that is not smaller than twelve point, Times New 6 7 Roman, and have a top, bottom, left, and right margin of not less than one inch. Page numbers may appear in the bottom 8 9 margin. Each page of an initiative petition shall be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of the 10 11 proposed measure. Each page of a referendum petition shall be attached to or shall contain a full and correct text of 12 13 the measure on which the referendum is sought.

14 2. The full and correct text of all initiative and15 referendum petition measures shall:

16 (1) Contain all matter which is to be deleted included
17 in its proper place enclosed in brackets and all new matter
18 shown underlined;

19 (2) Include all sections of existing law or of the20 constitution which would be repealed by the measure; and

(3) Otherwise conform to the provisions of [Article
III, Section 28 and] Article III, [Section] Sections 28, 49,
50, 51, and 52(a) of the Missouri Constitution and those of
this chapter.

25 3. The full and correct text of all initiative
 26 petition measures shall not purport to:

27 (1) Declare any federal statute, regulation, executive
28 order, or court decision to be void or in violation of the
29 United States Constitution;

30 (2) Amend any federal law or the United States
 31 Constitution; or

32 (3) Accomplish an act that the United States
 33 Constitution requires to be accomplished by the general
 34 assembly.

116.080. 1. Each petition circulator shall be [at least] a citizen of the United States, eighteen years of age 2 3 or older, a resident of this state or physically present in 4 this state for at least thirty consecutive days prior to the 5 collection of signatures, and registered with the secretary 6 of state. No petition circulator shall be paid anything of value that is based upon the number of signatures 7 Signatures collected by any circulator who has 8 collected. not registered with the secretary of state pursuant to this 9 chapter on or before 5:00 p.m. on the final day for filing 10 petitions with the secretary of state shall not be counted. 11 A petition circulator shall be deemed registered at the time 12 such circulator delivers a signed circulator's affidavit 13

pursuant to section 116.030, with respect to a referendum 14 petition, or section 116.040, with respect to an initiative 15 16 petition, to the office of the secretary of state. No person shall qualify as a petition circulator who has been 17 convicted of, found quilty of, or pled quilty to an offense 18 involving forgery under the laws of this state or an offense 19 under the laws of any other jurisdiction if that offense 20 21 would be considered forgery under the laws of this state.

22 2. Each petition circulator shall subscribe and swear 23 to the proper affidavit on each petition page such circulator submits before a notary public commissioned in 24 Missouri. When notarizing a circulator's signature, a 25 26 notary public shall sign his or her official signature and affix his or her official seal to the affidavit only if the 27 circulator personally appears before the notary and 28 subscribes and swears to the affidavit in his or her 29 30 presence.

31 3. Any circulator who falsely swears to a circulator's 32 affidavit knowing it to be false is guilty of a class A 33 misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of 34 section [560.021] 558.002 to the contrary, for a term of 35 imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a 36 fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both.

116.090. 1. Any person who commits any of the
following actions is guilty of the crime of petition
signature fraud:

4 (1) Signs any name other than his or her own to any
5 petition, or who knowingly signs his or her name more than
6 once for the same measure for the same election, or who
7 knows he or she is not at the time of signing or circulating
8 the same a Missouri registered voter and a resident of this
9 state; or

10 (2) Intentionally submits petition signature sheets
11 with the knowledge that the person whose name appears on the
12 signature sheet did not actually sign the petition; or

13 (3) Causes a voter to sign a petition other than the14 one the voter intended to sign; or

15

(4) Forges or falsifies signatures; or

16 (5) Knowingly accepts or offers money or anything of
17 value to another person in exchange for a signature on a
18 petition.

19 2. Any person who knowingly causes a petition circulator's signatures to be submitted for counting, and 20 who either knows that such circulator has violated 21 subsection 1 of this section or, after receiving notice of 22 facts indicating that such person may have violated 23 subsection 1 of this section, causes the signatures to be 24 25 submitted with reckless indifference as to whether such circulator has complied with subsection 1 of this section, 26 shall also be deemed to have committed the crime of petition 27 28 signature fraud.

3. A person who violates subsection 1 or 2 of this
section, shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a
class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the
provisions of section [560.021] 558.002 to the contrary, by
a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county
jail or a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both.

4. Any person employed by or serving as an election
authority, that has reasonable cause to suspect a person has
committed petition signature fraud, shall immediately report
or cause a report to be made to the appropriate prosecuting
authorities. Failure to so report or cause a report to be
made shall be a class A misdemeanor.

116.110. Any voter who has signed an initiative or 2 referendum petition may withdraw his or her signature from 3 that petition by submitting to the secretary of state, before the petition is filed with the secretary of state, a 4 5 sworn statement requesting that his or her signature be 6 withdrawn and affirming the name of the petition signed, the 7 name the voter used when signing the petition, the address 8 of the voter and the county of residence. It is a class A misdemeanor punishable, notwithstanding the provisions of 9 10 section [560.021] 558.002 to the contrary, for a term of imprisonment not to exceed one year in the county jail or a 11 fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars or both, to 12 13 knowingly file a false withdrawal statement with the secretary of state. 14

1. The secretary of state may send copies of 116.130. 2 petition pages to election authorities to verify that the 3 persons whose names are listed as signers to the petition 4 are registered voters. Such verification may either be of 5 each signature or by random sampling as provided in section 116.120, as the secretary shall direct. If copies of the 6 petition pages are sent to an election authority for 7 8 verification, such copies shall be sent pursuant to the 9 following schedule:

10 (1) Copies of all pages from not less than one
11 petition shall be received in the office of the election
12 authority not later than two weeks after the petition is
13 filed in the office of secretary of state;

14 (2) Copies of all pages of a total of three petitions
15 shall be received in the office of the election authority
16 not later than three weeks after the petition is filed in
17 the office of the secretary of state;

18 (3) If more than three petitions are filed, all copies
19 of petition pages, including those petitions selected for
20 verification by random sample pursuant to section 116.120,
21 shall be received in the office of the election authority
22 not later than the fourth week after the petition is filed
23 in the office of the secretary of state.

24 Each election authority shall check the signatures against voter registration records in the election authority's 25 jurisdiction, but the election authority shall count as 26 27 valid only the signatures of persons registered as voters in the county named in the circulator's affidavit. Signatures 28 29 shall not be counted as valid if they have been struck 30 through or crossed out. Signatures shall be recorded in 31 dark ink.

2. If the election authority is requested to verify 32 the petition by random sampling, such verification shall be 33 34 completed and certified not later than thirty days from the date that the election authority receives the petition from 35 the secretary of state. If the election authority is to 36 verify each signature, such verification [must] shall be 37 completed, certified and delivered to the secretary of state 38 by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July prior to the 39 election, or in the event of complete verification of 40 41 signatures after a failed random sample, full verification shall be completed, certified and delivered to the secretary 42 of state by 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in July or by 43 5:00 p.m. on the Friday of the fifth week after receipt of 44 the signatures by the local election authority, whichever is 45 later. 46

47 3. If the election authority or the secretary of state48 determines that the congressional district number written

49 after the signature of any voter is not the congressional 50 district of which the voter is a resident, the election 51 authority or the secretary of state shall correct the 52 congressional district number on the petition page. Failure 53 of a voter to give the voter's correct congressional 54 district number shall not by itself be grounds for not 55 counting the voter's signature.

56 4. The election authority shall return the copies of the petition pages to the secretary of state with 57 58 annotations regarding any invalid or questionable signatures which the election authority has been asked to check by the 59 secretary of state. The election authority shall verify the 60 61 number of pages received for that county, and also certify the total number of valid signatures of voters from each 62 congressional district which the election authority has been 63 asked to check by the secretary of state. 64

5. The secretary of state is authorized to adopt rules
to ensure uniform, complete, and accurate checking of
petition signatures either by actual count or random
sampling. No rule or portion of a rule promulgated pursuant
to this section shall become effective unless it has been
promulgated pursuant to the provisions of chapter 536.

6. After a period of three years from the time of
submission of the petitions to the secretary of state, the
secretary of state, if the secretary determines that
retention of such petitions is no longer necessary, may
destroy such petitions.

116.190. 1. Any [citizen] Missouri registered voter
who wishes to challenge the official ballot title or the
fiscal note prepared for a proposed constitutional amendment
submitted by the general assembly, by initiative petition,
or by constitutional convention, or for a statutory

6 initiative or referendum measure, may bring an action in the
7 circuit court of Cole County. The action must be brought
8 within ten days after the official ballot title is certified
9 by the secretary of state in accordance with the provisions
10 of this chapter.

The secretary of state shall be named as a party 11 2. 12 defendant in any action challenging the official ballot 13 title prepared by the secretary of state. When the action challenges the fiscal note or the fiscal note summary 14 15 prepared by the auditor, the state auditor shall also be named as a party defendant. The president pro tem of the 16 senate, the speaker of the house and the sponsor of the 17 18 measure and the secretary of state shall be the named party defendants in any action challenging the official summary 19 statement, fiscal note or fiscal note summary prepared 20 21 pursuant to section 116.155.

22 3. The petition shall state the reason or reasons why the summary statement portion of the official ballot title 23 24 is insufficient or unfair and shall request a different summary statement portion of the official ballot title. 25 Alternatively, the petition shall state the reasons why the 26 27 fiscal note or the fiscal note summary portion of the official ballot title is insufficient or unfair and shall 28 29 request a different fiscal note or fiscal note summary 30 portion of the official ballot title.

31 4. The action shall be placed at the top of the civil 32 docket. Insofar as the action challenges the summary 33 statement portion of the official ballot title, the court 34 shall consider the petition, hear arguments, and in its 35 decision certify the summary statement portion of the 36 official ballot title to the secretary of state. Insofar as 37 the action challenges the fiscal note or the fiscal note

38 summary portion of the official ballot title, the court shall consider the petition, hear arguments, and in its 39 40 decision, either certify the fiscal note or the fiscal note summary portion of the official ballot title to the 41 secretary of state or remand the fiscal note or the fiscal 42 note summary to the auditor for preparation of a new fiscal 43 note or fiscal note summary pursuant to the procedures set 44 45 forth in section 116.175. Any party [to the suit] may appeal [to the supreme court] within ten days after [a 46 47 circuit court decision] the entry of judgment by the circuit court. In making the legal notice to election authorities 48 under section 116.240, and for the purposes of section 49 50 116.180, the secretary of state shall certify the language which the court certifies to him. 51

5. Any action brought under this section that is not 52 fully and finally adjudicated within one hundred eighty days 53 54 of filing, and more than fifty-six days prior to the 55 election in which the measure is to appear, including all appeals, shall be extinguished, unless a court, before the 56 expiration of the foregoing periods, extends such period 57 58 upon [a] an express finding of good cause for such extension but no extension shall cause the final adjudication to occur 59 60 less than fifty-six days before the date of the election. Such good cause shall consist only of court-related 61 scheduling issues and shall not include requests for 62 continuance by the parties. No court, including any 63 appellate court, shall have the authority to issue any form 64 of relief after the expiration of the foregoing periods. 65

116.200. 1. After the secretary of state certifies a
petition as sufficient or insufficient, any [citizen]
Missouri registered voter may apply to the circuit court of
Cole County to compel [him] the secretary of state to

5 reverse his or her decision. The action must be brought 6 within ten days after the certification is made. All such 7 suits shall be advanced on the court docket and heard and 8 decided by the court as quickly as possible.

9 2. If the court decides the petition is sufficient,
10 the secretary of state shall certify it as sufficient and
11 attach a copy of the judgment. If the court decides the
12 petition is insufficient, the court shall enjoin the
13 secretary of state from certifying the measure and all other
14 officers from printing the measure on the ballot.

3. Any party may appeal within ten days after [a
decision is rendered, any party may appeal it to the supreme
court] the entry of the judgment by the circuit court.

116.332. 1. Before a constitutional amendment 2 petition, a statutory initiative petition, or a referendum 3 petition may be circulated for signatures, a sample sheet 4 [must] shall be submitted to the secretary of state in the form in which it will be circulated. Sample sheets may be 5 submitted to the secretary of state any time after a general 6 7 election until six months prior to the next general 8 election. When a person submits a sample sheet of a 9 petition he or she shall designate to the secretary of state 10 the name and address of the person to whom any notices shall be sent pursuant to sections 116.140 and 116.180 and, if a 11 committee or person, except the individual submitting the 12 13 sample sheet, is funding any portion of the drafting or 14 submitting of the sample sheet, the person submitting the sample sheet shall submit a copy of the filed statement of 15 16 committee organization required under subsection 5 of section 130.021 showing the date the statement was filed. 17 The secretary of state shall refer a copy of the petition 18 19 sheet to the attorney general for [his] approval and to the

20 state auditor for purposes of preparing a fiscal note and 21 fiscal note summary. The secretary of state and attorney 22 general [must] shall each review the petition for 23 [sufficiency as to form] compliance with section 116.050 and 24 Article III, Sections 28, 49, 50, 51, and 52(a) of the 25 Missouri Constitution and approve or reject the form of the 26 petition, stating the reasons for rejection, if any.

27 2. Within two business days of receipt of any such sample sheet, the office of the secretary of state shall 28 29 conspicuously post on its website the text of the proposed measure, a disclaimer stating that such text may not 30 constitute the full and correct text as required under 31 32 section 116.050, and the name of the person or organization submitting the sample sheet. The secretary of state's 33 failure to comply with such posting shall be considered a 34 violation of chapter 610 and subject to the penalties 35 provided under subsection 3 of section 610.027. The posting 36 shall be removed within three days of either the withdrawal 37 38 of the petition under section 116.115 or the rejection for any reason of the petition. 39

3. Upon receipt of a petition from the office of the 40 secretary of state, the attorney general shall examine the 41 petition [as to form] and determine whether it complies with 42 43 section 116.050 and Article III, Sections 28, 49, 50, 51, 44 and 52(a) of the Missouri Constitution. If the petition is rejected [as to form], the attorney general shall forward 45 46 his or her comments to the secretary of state within ten days after receipt of the petition by the attorney general. 47 If the petition is approved [as to form], the attorney 48 49 general shall forward his or her approval [as to form] to the secretary of state within ten days after receipt of the 50 petition by the attorney general. 51

52 4. The secretary of state shall review the comments 53 and statements of the attorney general [as to form] and make 54 a final decision as to the approval or rejection [of the form] of the petition. The secretary of state shall send 55 written notice to the person who submitted the petition 56 sheet of the approval within fifteen days after submission 57 58 of the petition sheet. The secretary of state shall send 59 written notice if the petition has been rejected, together with reasons for rejection, within fifteen days after 60 61 submission of the petition sheet.

1. If the petition [form] is approved 116.334. pursuant to section 116.332, the secretary of state shall 2 3 make a copy of the sample petition available on the secretary of state's website. For a period of fifteen days 4 5 after the petition is approved [as to form] pursuant to section 116.332, the secretary of state shall accept public 6 7 comments regarding the proposed measure and provide copies 8 of such comments upon request. Within twenty-three days of 9 receipt of such approval, the secretary of state shall prepare and transmit to the attorney general a summary 10 statement of the measure which shall be a concise statement 11 not exceeding one hundred words. This statement shall [be 12 in the form of a question using] use language neither 13 14 intentionally argumentative nor likely to create prejudice either for or against the proposed measure. The attorney 15 16 general shall within ten days approve the legal content and 17 form of the proposed statement.

Signatures obtained prior to the date the official
 ballot title is certified by the secretary of state shall
 not be counted. If a court orders a change that
 substantially alters the content of the official ballot
 title under subsection 4 of section 116.190, the court shall

expressly find in its order, judgment, or mandate that a
substantial alteration has occurred. All signatures
gathered before such change occurred shall be invalidated,
regardless of whether those signatures were gathered on
petition pages that displayed what was previously the
official ballot title as certified by the secretary of state.

3. Signatures for statutory initiative petitions shall
be filed not later than six months prior to the general
election during which the petition's ballot measure is
submitted for a vote, and shall also be collected not
earlier than the day after the day upon which the previous
general election was held.

Within thirty days of issuing 116.153. 2 certification that the petition contains a 3 sufficient number of valid signatures pursuant 4 to section 116.150, the joint committee on 5 legislative research shall hold a public hearing 6 in Jefferson City to take public comments 7 concerning the proposed measure. Such hearing 8 shall be a public meeting under chapter 610. 9 Within five business days after the end of the 10 public hearing, the joint committee on legislative research shall provide a summary of 11 the hearing to the secretary of state or his or 12 her designee and the secretary of state shall 13 post a copy of the summary on the website of the 14 15 office of the secretary of state.]

Section B. The enactment of section 116.045 and the repeal and reenactment of sections 116.030, 116.040, 116.050, 116.080, and 116.130 shall become effective on November 6, 2024.

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