

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27018

The purpose of this legislation is to increase voter involvement in the voter initiative/referendum process and to require additional explanatory information during the process and on the ballot.

To increase voter involvement, proponents of initiatives/referendums will be required to secure signatures from 10% of registered voters in 32 of Idaho's 35 legislative districts. As with legislative proposals, initiatives/referendums will be asked to follow a single subject rule, include a fiscal impact statement and propose a funding source. The effective date would be no sooner than July 1st following the vote on the ballot.

FISCAL NOTE

Under existing law, county clerks already verify initiative/referendum signatures for 18 legislative districts. This bill would require signatures to be verified by county clerks for 14 additional districts. The total signatures to be verified in each district would increase from 6% to 10% of registered voters.

Because of the additional number of signatures gathered due to the enhanced initiative/referendum process, counties will be required to spend additional time to verify them. It is anticipated that the current staff will handle the workload. If not, then temporary help may need to be hired at minimal cost.

The Secretary of State's office does not envision more than a minimal increase in work by existing staff.

Contact:

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).