

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28748 / H0290

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure the security of absentee voting and the validity of petition signatures by clarifying the requirement that county clerks verify voter signatures in these instances. A recent Idaho district court decision held that it is not reasonable to interpret the existing statutes to say that county clerks should be verifying signatures on a recall petition, which has been standard practice across the state. This legislation clarifies requirements to ensure these practices continue for all instances where signature verification is currently relied upon. It also requires the Secretary of State to provide training and guidance on how signatures are to be verified and clarifies that petition signatures are to be physical signatures and not electronic.

## FISCAL NOTE

There is no additional fiscal impact to the State or counties as the tools and practices for signature verification have already been put in place.

### 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).**