

House Joint Resolution 32

Sponsored by Representative BUCKLEY, Senator ATKINSON (at the request of Committee for Petition Rights)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Proposes amendment to Oregon Constitution to specify that proposed initiative petition may be circulated for at least two years after date Secretary of State approves petition for circulation.

Refers proposed amendment to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

PARAGRAPH 1. The Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by creating a new section 1c to be added to and made a part of Article IV, and by amending section 1, Article IV, such sections to read:

Sec. 1. (1) The legislative power of the state, except for the initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people, is vested in a Legislative Assembly, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

(2)(a) The people reserve to themselves the initiative power, which is to propose laws and amendments to the Constitution and enact or reject them at an election independently of the Legislative Assembly.

(b) An initiative law may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to six percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition.

(c) An initiative amendment to the Constitution may be proposed only by a petition signed by a number of qualified voters equal to eight percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding the filing of the petition.

(d) An initiative petition shall include the full text of the proposed law or amendment to the Constitution. A proposed law or amendment to the Constitution shall embrace one subject only and matters properly connected therewith.

(e) An initiative petition shall be filed not *[less]* **later than the date that:**

(A) Is four months before the election at which the proposed law or amendment to the Constitution is to be voted upon; **and**

(B) Allows the petition to be circulated for signatures of electors for at least two years following the date that the petition is approved for circulation in the manner provided by law.

(f) Paragraph (e) of this subsection does not prohibit the filing of an initiative petition on a date that is sooner than two years following the date that the petition is approved for circulation.

(3)(a) The people reserve to themselves the referendum power, which is to approve or reject at

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 an election any Act, or part thereof, of the Legislative Assembly that does not become effective
2 earlier than 90 days after the end of the session at which the Act is passed.

3 (b) A referendum on an Act or part thereof may be ordered by a petition signed by a number
4 of qualified voters equal to four percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for
5 Governor at the election at which a Governor was elected for a term of four years next preceding
6 the filing of the petition. A referendum petition shall be filed not more than 90 days after the end
7 of the session at which the Act is passed.

8 (c) A referendum on an Act may be ordered by the Legislative Assembly by law.
9 Notwithstanding section 15b, Article V of this Constitution, bills ordering a referendum and bills
10 on which a referendum is ordered are not subject to veto by the Governor.

11 (4)(a) Petitions or orders for the initiative or referendum shall be filed with the Secretary of
12 State. The Legislative Assembly shall provide by law for the manner in which the Secretary of State
13 shall determine whether a petition contains the required number of signatures of qualified voters.
14 The Secretary of State shall complete the verification process [*within the 30-day period*] **not later**
15 **than 30 days** after the last day on which the petition may be filed as provided in paragraph (e) of
16 subsection (2) or paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of this section.

17 (b) Initiative and referendum measures shall be submitted to the people as provided in this sec-
18 tion and by law not inconsistent therewith.

19 (c) All elections on initiative and referendum measures shall be held at the regular general
20 elections, unless otherwise ordered by the Legislative Assembly.

21 (d) Notwithstanding section 1, Article XVII of this Constitution, an initiative or referendum
22 measure becomes effective 30 days after the day on which it is enacted or approved by a majority
23 of the votes cast thereon. A referendum ordered by petition on a part of an Act does not delay the
24 remainder of the Act from becoming effective.

25 (5) The initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by subsections (2) and (3) of this
26 section are further reserved to the qualified voters of each municipality and district as to all local,
27 special and municipal legislation of every character in or for their municipality or district. The
28 manner of exercising those powers shall be provided by general laws, but cities may provide the
29 manner of exercising those powers as to their municipal legislation. In a city, not more than 15
30 percent of the qualified voters may be required to propose legislation by the initiative, and not more
31 than 10 percent of the qualified voters may be required to order a referendum on legislation.

32 **SECTION 1c. (1) The amendment to section 1 of this Article by House Joint Resolution**
33 **32 (2007) applies to initiative petitions proposing an amendment to the Constitution or initi-**
34 **ative petitions proposing a law for which a prospective petition is filed with the Secretary**
35 **of State on or after the effective date of the amendment to section 1 of this Article by House**
36 **Joint Resolution 32 (2007).**

37 **(2) This section is repealed on January 2, 2012.**

38
39 **PARAGRAPH 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be submitted to the**
40 **people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election held throughout**
41 **this state.**