

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	3 - 2 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Courtney, Monnes Anderson, Brown
<b>Nays:</b>	Atkinson, Ferrioli
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Marjorie Taylor, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/7, 2/12

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires a ballot title to include the plural major effects of the measure. Requires the Supreme Court to certify or refer a ballot title to the Attorney General within 45 days under certain circumstances. Requires the Secretary of State to verify initiative or referendum signatures. Allows a signature to be counted or rejected under statistical sampling only if reviewed at least twice. Requires the secretary to prescribe a signature verification training program. Requires the Secretary of State or Attorney General to respond to complaint of violation of an election law or rule within 90 days. Allows an elector to challenge the ballot of a person if they know the person is not qualified as an elector. Prohibits challenging ballots of person contained on a list of electors solely because the name of the person is on a list compiled using mail sent by certain groups. Allows the Secretary of State to use U.S. Postal Service records to verify accuracy of addresses and may update the address of an elector. Declares emergency, and prescribes effective dates.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provisions of the measure
- Signature verification by county clerks
- Need for training on signature verification
- Opportunity for voter to verify signature on petition
- Levels of signature review
- Practice of vote caging

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:** Provisions of the measure make several changes to elections law, some of which are described as follows.

With regard to certification of ballot titles, current statute requires the Supreme Court to review challenges to language expeditiously to ensure the orderly and timely circulation of a petition. Provisions of this measure require the Supreme Court to certify or refer back to the Attorney General within 45 days of comments being received.

Regarding signature verification, the Secretary of State and county clerks work to verify signatures submitted by petitioners. This measure places the verification process with the Secretary of State only and requires the secretary to prescribe a training program for signature verification.

With regard to complaints about elections law violations, currently the Secretary of State does not have a deadline to respond to complaints, however this measure imposes a deadline of 90 days after receipt of a complaint to respond if more time is needed for review and determine if there was a violation within one year of the complaint.

2/15/2008 3:42:00 PM

***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***