House Bill 3244

Sponsored by Representative GALIZIO

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.**

Requires that persons being paid to obtain signatures on prospective petitions for state measures to be initiated must register with Secretary of State and complete training program.

Directs Secretary of State to prepare official templates of cover and signature sheets for prospective petitions for state measures to be initiated. Requires persons obtaining signatures on prospective petition to use cover and signature sheets contained in official templates.

Directs chief petitioner of state initiative petition to file signature sheets with Secretary of State each month.

Allows Secretary of State to verify signatures if secretary determines that not less than 50 percent of total number of signatures required on state initiative petition have been filed. Allows chief petitioner of state initiative petition to withdraw petition if not less than total number of signatures required on petition have been submitted to Secretary of State.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to election petitions; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 250.029, 250.045, 250.048,

3 250.052, 250.105, 260.262, 260.563 and 260.567.

4 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 250.045 is amended to read:

6 250.045. (1) Before circulating a petition to initiate or refer a state measure under section 1, 7 Article IV, Oregon Constitution, the petitioner shall file with the Secretary of State a prospective 8 petition. The prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated shall contain [a statement of 9 sponsorship signed by] the signatures of at least 1,000 electors. The [statement of sponsorship 10 shall] signature sheets must be attached to a full and correct copy of the measure to be initiated.

(2) Before collecting signatures on a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated, the chief petitioners shall file with the Secretary of State a statement declaring whether one or more persons will be paid money or other valuable consideration for obtaining signatures of electors on the prospective petition. After a statement has been filed under this subsection, the chief petitioners shall notify the secretary not later than the 10th day

16 after any of the chief petitioners first has knowledge or should have had knowledge that:

(a) Any person is being paid for obtaining signatures, when the statement filed declared
 that no such person would be paid.

(b) No person is being paid for obtaining signatures, when the statement filed under this
 subsection declared that one or more such persons would be paid.

[(2)] (3) The secretary by rule shall establish procedures for verifying whether [the statement of sponsorship] a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated contains the required number of signatures of electors.

[(3)] (4) The secretary shall date and time stamp the prospective petition and specify the form on which the initiative or referendum petition shall be printed for circulation as provided in ORS 250.052. The secretary shall retain the prospective petition.

[(4)] (5) The chief petitioner may amend the state measure to be initiated that has been filed 1 2 with the secretary without filing another prospective petition, if:

(a) The Attorney General certifies to the secretary that the proposed amendment will not sub-3 stantially change the substance of the measure; and 4

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(b) The deadline for submitting written comments on the draft title has not passed.

[(5)] (6) The cover of an initiative or referendum petition shall designate the name and residence 6 address of not more than three persons as chief petitioners and shall contain instructions for per-7 sons obtaining signatures of electors on the petition. The instructions shall be adopted by the sec-8 9 retary by rule. The cover of a referendum petition shall contain the final measure summary described in ORS 250.065 (1). If a petition seeking a different ballot title is not filed with the Su-10 preme Court by the deadline for filing a petition under ORS 250.085, the cover of an initiative peti-11 12 tion shall contain the latest ballot title certified by the Attorney General under ORS 250.067 (2). 13 However, if the Supreme Court has reviewed the ballot title, the cover of the initiative petition shall contain the title certified by the court. 14

15 [(6)] (7) The chief petitioners shall include with the prospective petition a statement declaring 16 whether one or more persons will be paid money or other valuable consideration for obtaining signatures of electors on the initiative or referendum petition. After the prospective petition is filed, 17 18 the chief petitioners shall notify the filing officer not later than the 10th day after any of the chief petitioners first has knowledge or should have had knowledge that: 19

20(a) Any person is being paid for obtaining signatures, when the statement included with the prospective petition declared that no such person would be paid. 21

22(b) No person is being paid for obtaining signatures, when the statement included with the pro-23spective petition declared that one or more such persons would be paid.

[(7)(a)] (8)(a) Each sheet of signatures on an initiative petition shall contain the caption of the 24ballot title. Each sheet of signatures on a referendum petition shall contain the subject expressed 25in the title of the Act to be referred. 26

27(b) Each sheet of signatures on an initiative or referendum petition shall:

(A) Contain a notice describing the meaning of the color of the signature sheet in accordance 28with ORS 250.052; and 29

30 (B) If one or more persons will be paid for obtaining signatures of electors on the petition, 31 contain a notice stating: "Some Circulators For This Petition Are Being Paid." The notice shall be 32in boldfaced type and shall be prominently displayed on the sheet.

(c) The secretary by rule shall adopt a method of designation to distinguish signature sheets of 33 34 referendum petitions containing the same subject reference and being circulated during the same 35 period.

[(8)] (9) The reverse side of the cover of an initiative or referendum petition shall be used for 36 37 obtaining signatures on the initiative or referendum petition.

38 [(9)] (10) Not more than 20 signatures on the signature sheet of the initiative or referendum petition may be counted. The circulator shall certify on each signature sheet of the initiative or 39 referendum petition that the circulator: 40

(a) Witnessed the signing of the signature sheet by each individual whose signature appears on 41 the signature sheet; and 42

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(b) Believes each individual is an elector.

[(10)] (11) The person obtaining signatures on the petition shall carry at least one full and cor-44 rect copy of the measure to be initiated or referred and shall allow any person to review a copy 45

1 upon request of the person.

2 SECTION 2. ORS 250.048 is amended to read:

250.048. (1) A person may not pay money or other valuable consideration to another person for
 obtaining signatures of electors on a state initiative, referendum or recall petition or a prospective

5 petition for a state measure to be initiated, and a person may not receive money or other valu-

6 able consideration for obtaining signatures of electors on a state initiative, referendum or recall

petition or a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated, unless the person obtaining
the signatures:

9 (a) Registers with the Secretary of State in the manner prescribed by this section and by rule 10 of the secretary; and

11 (b) Completes the training program prescribed by rule of the secretary.

(2) A person may apply to the secretary for a registration required under subsection (1) of thissection. The application shall include:

14 (a) The full name and any assumed name of the applicant;

15 (b) The residential street address of the applicant;

16 (c) An example of the signature of the applicant;

17 (d) A list of the prospective petitions on which the applicant will gather signatures;

[(d)] (e) A list of the initiative, referendum and recall petitions on which the applicant will
 gather signatures;

20 [(e)] (f) If the applicant has been convicted for a criminal offense involving fraud, forgery or 21 identification theft, information relating to the circumstances of the conviction as required by the 22 secretary;

[(f)] (g) A statement signed by the applicant acknowledging that the applicant has read and understands Oregon law applicable to the gathering of signatures on state initiative, referendum and recall petitions **and prospective petitions for state measures to be initiated**, as the law is summarized in the training program established by the Secretary of State;

[(g)] (h) Evidence indicating that the applicant has completed the training required by the secretary by rule;

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[(h)] (i) A photograph of the applicant; and

30 [(*i*)] (**j**) A statement signed by a chief petitioner of each petition or prospective petition upon 31 which the applicant will gather signatures acknowledging that the chief petitioner is liable for vio-32 lations of law or rule committed by the person obtaining signatures as provided in ORS 260.561.

(3) If an applicant complies with subsection (2) of this section, not later than two business days after the applicant applies, the secretary shall register the applicant and assign the applicant a registration number. A person who is registered to obtain signatures on a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated need not reapply for a registration under this section in order to obtain signatures on a state initiative, referendum or recall petition, except that the person shall submit a list of the initiative, referendum and recall petitions on which the person will gather signatures.

(4) A person who has been convicted for a criminal offense involving fraud, forgery or identification theft in any state during the five-year period prior to the date of the application may not
apply for registration under this section.

(5) If a person receives money or other valuable consideration for obtaining signatures of electors on a state initiative, referendum or recall petition or a prospective petition for a state
measure to be initiated and the person was not registered as required under this section at the

1 time the signatures were obtained, the secretary may not count the signatures under ORS 250.105

2 or ORS chapter 249 for purposes of determining whether the petition or prospective petition con-

3 tains the required number of signatures of electors.

4 (6) A person registered under this section shall carry evidence of registration with the person 5 while the person is obtaining signatures on a state initiative, referendum or recall petition or a 6 prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated. The evidence of registration shall con-7 tain the photograph and registration number of the person. The secretary by rule shall designate the 8 form of the evidence of registration.

9 (7) A photograph of an applicant submitted under subsection (2) of this section shall:

10 (a) Be a conventional photograph with a plain background;

11 (b) Show the face or the face, neck and shoulders of the applicant; and

12 (c) Be prepared and processed for printing as prescribed by the secretary.

13 (8) The secretary shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including rules:

(a) Establishing procedures for registering persons who may be paid money or other valuableconsideration for obtaining signatures of electors on state initiative, referendum or recall petitions

16 or prospective petitions for state measures to be initiated; and

(b) Establishing a training program for persons who may be paid money or other valuable con sideration for obtaining signatures of electors on state initiative, referendum or recall petitions or
 prospective petitions for state measures to be initiated.

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SECTION 3. ORS 250.052 is amended to read:

21 250.052. (1)(a) For each state initiative, referendum or recall petition, the Secretary of State 22 shall prepare official templates of the cover and signature sheets for the petition. Except as pro-23 vided in this section, templates of cover and signature sheets for state initiative and referendum 24 petitions are subject to the requirements of ORS 250.045. The templates of signature sheets to be 25 used by persons who are being paid to obtain signatures on the petition shall be a different color 26 from the sheets to be used by persons who are not being paid to obtain signatures on the petition.

(b) The Secretary of State shall prepare official templates of the cover and signature sheets for prospective petitions for state measures to be initiated. The templates of signature sheets to be used by persons who are being paid to obtain signatures on a prospective petition shall be a different color from the sheets to be used by persons who are not being paid to obtain signatures on the prospective petition. Each sheet of signatures on a prospective petition shall:

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(A) Contain a notice describing the meaning of the color of the signature sheet; and

(B) If one or more persons will be paid for obtaining signatures of electors on the prospective petition, contain a notice stating: "Some Circulators For This Prospective Petition
Are Being Paid." The notice shall be in boldfaced type and shall be prominently displayed on
the sheet.

(2) A person obtaining signatures on a state initiative, referendum or recall petition or a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated may use only the cover and signature sheets contained in the official templates prepared for the petition or prospective petition. A person who is being paid to obtain signatures on the petition or prospective petition shall use the signature sheet template designated for use by persons being paid to obtain signatures. A person who is not being paid to obtain signatures on the petition or prospective petition shall use the signature sheet template designated for use by persons who are not being paid to obtain signatures.

45 (3) The secretary shall issue templates for a petition or prospective petition only to [a] the

1 chief petitioner [of the petition] or to an agent designated by [a] the chief petitioner.

2 (4) The secretary shall issue official templates to a chief petitioner or designated agent not later 3 than:

4 (a) Three business days after the deadline for filing a petition under ORS 250.085 relating to a 5 ballot title certified by the Attorney General for the state initiative petition or, if a petition is filed 6 with the Supreme Court under ORS 250.085, three business days after the Supreme Court certifies 7 to the Secretary of State a ballot title for the state initiative petition; [or]

8 (b) Three business days after a prospective petition is filed under ORS 249.865 or 250.045 for a
9 state recall petition or state referendum petition[.]; or

(c) Three business days after a chief petitioner files a statement with the Secretary of
 State under ORS 250.045 (2) for a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated.

(5) Not later than five business days after the deadline for the secretary to issue templates under subsection (4) of this section, a chief petitioner of a state initiative, referendum or recall petition or a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated may submit to the secretary a written request for modification of the templates. The secretary shall approve or disapprove the request not later than five business days after receiving the request. If the secretary disapproves the request, the secretary shall advise the chief petitioner in writing of the reasons for the disapproval. (6) In addition to the templates prepared under subsections (1) to (5) of this section, for each

state initiative, referendum or recall petition, the secretary shall prepare an official electronic template of a signature sheet for the petition. A template prepared under this subsection shall allow space for the signature of one elector. An elector may print a copy of the electronic signature sheet for a petition, sign the sheet and deliver the signed sheet to a chief petitioner or an agent designated by a chief petitioner. Electronic templates described in this subsection are subject to the requirements of ORS 250.045, other than ORS 250.045 [(5), (8) and (9)] (6), (9) and (10).

(7) The secretary shall adopt rules prescribing the contents and method of production of official
 templates required under this section.

27 SECTION 4. ORS 260.262 is amended to read:

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260.262. (1) As used in this section, "accounts" means:

(a) Any contract entered into by a chief petitioner of an initiative or referendum petition or
 prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated and any person for purposes of obtaining
 signatures on the petition or prospective petition;

(b) Any employment manual or training materials provided to persons who obtain signatures on
 the petition or prospective petition;

(c) Payroll records for each employee obtaining signatures on the petition or prospective pe tition showing hours worked, number of signatures collected and amounts paid;

(d) Records identifying the amount and purpose of each payment made by the chief petitioner
 or any contractor, as defined in ORS 260.563, to any subcontractor, as defined in ORS 260.563, ob taining signatures on the petition or prospective petition; and

(e) Copies of signature sheets circulated by persons who are being paid to obtain signatures on
 the petition or prospective petition.

(2) For purposes of enforcing section 1b, Article IV of the Oregon Constitution, a chief petitioner
of an initiative or referendum petition who pays any person money or other valuable consideration
to obtain signatures on the petition or prospective petition shall keep detailed accounts. The accounts shall be current as of not later than the seventh calendar day after the date a payment is
made to a person for obtaining signatures on the petition or prospective petition.

(3) The Secretary of State shall review the accounts of each chief petitioner described in sub-1 2 section (2) of this section in the manner and according to a regular schedule adopted by the secretary by rule. 3 (4) In addition to the review conducted under subsection (3) of this section, the secretary, At-4 torney General or Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries may inspect the accounts 5 of a chief petitioner described in subsection (2) of this section under reasonable circumstances at 6 any time before the deadline for filing signatures on the petition or during the period specified for 7 retention of the accounts under subsection (5) of this section. The right of inspection may be en-8 9 forced by writ of mandamus issued by any court of competent jurisdiction. (5) A chief petitioner must preserve the accounts pertaining to an initiative or referendum pe-10 tition or a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated for at least two years after 11 12 the deadline for filing the petition for verification of signatures or at least two years after the date the last statement is filed under ORS 260.118, whichever is later. 13 (6) If a chief petitioner does not produce accounts under subsection (3) or (4) of this section: 14 15 (a) There is a rebuttable presumption that a violation of section 1b, Article IV of the Oregon Constitution, has occurred; and 16 (b) The chief petitioner may not obtain additional signatures on the petition or prospective 17

petition until the chief petitioner is able to supply the accounts to the secretary, Attorney General or commissioner.

20 (7) Accounts are not subject to disclosure under ORS 192.410 to 192.505.

21 SECTION 5. ORS 260.563 is amended to read:

22 260.563. (1) As used in this section:

23 (a) "Contractor" means a person who contracts on predetermined terms with a chief petitioner,

24 or a person acting on behalf of a chief petitioner, of an initiative or referendum petition or pro-

25 spective petition for a state measure to be initiated for the purpose of obtaining signatures on 26 the petition or prospective petition.

(b) "Subcontractor" means a person who contracts on predetermined terms with a contractor for the purpose of obtaining signatures on an initiative or referendum petition or a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated and who has no direct contractual relationship with a chief petitioner or other person acting on behalf of a chief petitioner.

(2) If a contractor has knowledge of an unreported violation of section 1b, Article IV of the
 Oregon Constitution, by a subcontractor, the violation by the subcontractor is conclusively considered a violation by the contractor.

(3) A contractor is not liable under subsection (2) of this section if the contractor notifies the
 Secretary of State in writing not later than one business day after the contractor obtains knowledge
 of an unreported potential violation. The notice shall state:

37 (a) That a potential violation has occurred;

38 (b) The nature of the potential violation; and

39 (c) All specific information known to the contractor regarding the potential violation.

40 (4) This section does not apply to a violation of law that is subject to criminal penalty.

41 **SECTION 6.** ORS 260.567 is amended to read:

42 260.567. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a person other than the person 43 who signed the signature sheet of an initiative, referendum, recall or candidate nominating 44 petition, a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated or a certificate of nomination 45 may not write, alter, correct, clarify or obscure on the signature sheet any information about the

1 person who signed the signature sheet.

2 (2) A person other than the person who signed the signature sheet may:

3 (a) Alter, correct, clarify or obscure on the signature sheet any information about the person
4 who signed the signature sheet if the line on which the signature appears is subsequently initialed
5 by the person who signed the signature sheet; or

6 (b) Write, alter, correct, clarify or obscure on the signature sheet any information about the 7 person who signed the signature sheet if the person who signed the signature sheet is a person with 8 a disability and requests assistance in writing, altering, correcting, clarifying or obscuring on the 9 signature sheet any information about the person.

10 (3) As used in this section:

(a) "Information about the person who signed the signature sheet" means any information regarding the person who signed the signature sheet of an initiative, referendum, recall or candidate nominating petition, a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated or a certificate of nomination, in addition to the signature of the person, that is required or requested to be supplied on a signature sheet of an initiative, referendum, recall or candidate nominating petition, a prospective petition or a certificate of nomination.

(b) "The person who signed the signature sheet" means the person whose signature will be submitted for verification under ORS chapter 249 or ORS **250.045**, 250.105, 250.215, 250.315 or 255.175 for the purpose of determining whether the petition, **prospective petition** or certificate contains the required number of signatures of electors.

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SECTION 7. ORS 250.105 is amended to read:

22 250.105. (1)(a) An initiative or referendum petition relating to a state measure must be filed with 23 the Secretary of State for the purpose of verifying whether the petition contains the required num-24 ber of signatures of electors.

(b) Signatures on a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated shall be considered
under this section for the purpose of verifying whether the initiative petition contains the required
number of signatures of electors.

(c) When filing an initiative or referendum petition, the chief petitioner shall sort the signature
 sheets on the basis of the name of the person who obtained the signatures on the sheet.

(d) The secretary shall adopt rules establishing procedures for verifying signatures on an initi ative or referendum petition.

(e) [The] A filed [initiative or] referendum petition must contain only original signatures. The
 secretary or county clerk shall verify each petition in the order in which the petitions are filed with
 the secretary.

(2) Once every month, the chief petitioners of an initiative petition relating to a state 35 measure shall file with the Secretary of State any signature sheet containing signatures of 36 electors obtained on the petition. The secretary shall hold all signature sheets filed under 37 38 this subsection unless the chief petitioner notifies the secretary that the chief petitioner will not file additional signatures. If the secretary determines that the total number of signa-39 tures filed under this subsection is not less than 50 percent of the required number of sig-40 natures, the secretary may begin verifying the signatures. Signature sheets filed under this 41 section must contain only original signatures. The secretary shall adopt rules prescribing the 42dates by which signature sheets must be filed each month. 43

44 [(2)] (3) The secretary may not accept [an initiative or] **a** referendum petition relating to a state 45 measure for filing if the petition contains less than 100 percent of the required number of signatures.

1 [(3)] (4) If the total number of signatures required on an initiative petition or referendum 2 petition is submitted not less than 165 days before the election at which the proposed measure is 3 to be voted upon and if the secretary determines that insufficient signatures have been submitted 4 but the deadline for filing **signatures on** the petition has not passed, the petitioners may submit 5 additional signatures.

6 [(4)] (5) The secretary by rule shall designate a statistical sampling technique to verify whether 7 a petition contains the required number of signatures of electors. A petition may not be rejected for 8 the reason that it contains less than the required number of signatures unless two separate sampling 9 processes both establish that the petition lacks the required number of signatures. The second 10 sampling must contain a larger number of signatures than the first sampling. If two samplings are 11 required under this subsection, the total number of signatures verified on the petition shall be not 12 less than five percent of the total number of signatures on the petition.

[(5)] (6) For purposes of estimating the number of duplicate signatures contained in a petition, the secretary shall apply at least an eight percent duplication rate in the first sampling of signatures on all petitions. If a second sampling of signatures is required under subsection [(4)] (5) of this section, the secretary shall calculate an estimated signature duplication rate for each petition for which a second sampling is required. The calculation shall be based on the number of electors the secretary determines have signed a specific petition more than once.

19 [(6)] (7) When verifying signatures for a state initiative or referendum petition, the secretary 20 or county clerk shall identify on an elector's voter registration record or other database that the 21 elector signed the specific initiative or referendum petition.

[(7)] (8) The Secretary of State may employ professional assistance to determine the sampling technique to be designated under subsection [(4)] (5) of this section.

24 SECTION 8. ORS 250.029 is amended to read:

25 250.029. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the chief petitioners of an 26 initiative or referendum petition may withdraw the petition at any time prior to the submission of 27 the petition for signature verification.

(2) The chief petitioners of an initiative petition relating to a state measure may with draw the petition at any time prior to the submission of not less than the total number of
 signatures required on the petition for signature verification.

(3) The Secretary of State by rule shall design a form for use in filing a withdrawal of any ini tiative or referendum petition. The withdrawal form must be signed by all of the chief petitioners
 and filed with the filing officer.

<u>SECTION 9.</u> (1)(a) The amendments to ORS 250.105 by section 7 of this 2009 Act do not apply to signature sheets for state initiative petitions that, if filed with the required number of signatures of electors, will be submitted to the people at the general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2010.

(b) The amendments to ORS 250.105 by section 7 of this 2009 Act apply to signature
sheets for state initiative petitions that, if filed with the required number of signatures of
electors, will be submitted to the people at a general election occurring after the first
Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2010, regardless of when the prospective petition
for the state initiative petition is filed.

(2)(a) The amendments to ORS 250.029 by section 8 of this 2009 Act do not apply to ini tiative or referendum petitions that, if filed with the required number of signatures of elec tors, will be submitted to the people at the general election held on the first Tuesday after

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1 the first Monday in November 2010.

 $\mathbf{2}$ (b) The amendments to ORS 250.029 by section 8 of this 2009 Act apply to initiative pe-3 titions that, if filed with the required number of signatures of electors, will be submitted to the people at a general election occurring after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in 4 November 2010, regardless of when the prospective petition for the initiative petition is filed. $\mathbf{5}$ SECTION 10. (1) The amendments to ORS 250.045, 250.048 250.052, 260.262, 260.563 and 6 260.567 by sections 1 to 6 of this 2009 Act do not apply to signatures of electors collected on 7 a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated that, if filed with the required 8 9 number of signatures of electors, will be submitted to the people at the general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2010. 10 (2) The amendments to ORS 250.045, 250.048 250.052, 260.262, 260.563 and 260.567 by 11 12sections 1 to 6 of this 2009 Act apply to signatures of electors collected on a prospective petition for a state measure to be initiated that, if filed with the required number of signatures 13

of electors, will be submitted to the people at a general election occurring after the first
 Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2010, regardless of when the prospective petition
 for a state measure to be initiated is filed.

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