

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Beyer, Burdick, Ferrioli, Starr, Rosenbaum
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/10, 5/1

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires organization or entity paying signature gatherers to register with Secretary of State. Requires one or more persons representing organization or entity engaged in signature gathering to complete training established by statute and implemented by Secretary of State. Requires statement certifying that persons trained have read and understood Oregon law pertaining to signature gathering. Requires written affirmation that organization or entity complies with law. Makes provisions operative January 1, 2014. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Extending applicability of current law, for individual signature gatherers, to entity or organization hiring individual
- Impact of Initiative Reform Modernization Act
- Integrity of initiative process in Oregon
- Process required for certification of paid signature gatherers

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** In 1902, Oregon’s original constitution (1857) was amended to establish the initiative and referendum process for approving both statutory measures and constitutional amendments. The initiative and referendum process gives direct power to voters to enact new laws, change existing laws, or to amend the Oregon Constitution.

While the initiative and referendum process has been used numerous times since 1902, it has been used much more frequently in recent decades. Legislative reforms to the process have also occurred. House Bill 2082 (2007), now known as the Initiative Reform Modernization Act (IRMA), required paid signature gatherers to register and complete training with the Secretary of State. The measure also prohibited persons convicted of fraud, forgery, or identity theft within the previous five years from working as paid signature gatherers and required chief petitioners and signature gatherers to use cover and signature sheet templates prepared by the Secretary of State.

House Bill 2005 (2009) expanded on the 2007 reforms by adding prospective petitions to the IRMA provisions for hiring paid signature gatherers and requiring chief petitioners to follow the same reporting procedures as for initiative petitions. The measure expanded the authority of the Secretary of State to prevent forgery and fraudulent activity by requiring comprehensive background checks, allowing concurrent civil and criminal enforcement of election violations, and making chief petitioners liable when they “should have known” that a signature gatherer had broken the law.

Senate Bill 154 extends the requirement for registration, training, and certification of training beyond individual paid signature gatherers to include *entities or organizations* that hire and pay individual signature gatherers.

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