

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
State of Oklahoma

SPEAKER:

CHAIR:

I move to amend HB1105 \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the printed Bill  
Page \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Lines \_\_\_\_\_  
Of the Engrossed Bill

By striking the Title, the Enacting Clause, the entire bill, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following language:

**AMEND TITLE TO CONFORM TO AMENDMENTS**

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment submitted by: Charles McCall \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reading Clerk

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

3 PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
4 SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1105

By: McCall

7 PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to initiative and referendum;  
9 amending 34 O.S. 2011, Section 8, as last amended by  
10 Section 8, Chapter 125, O.S.L. 2020 (34 O.S. Supp.  
11 2020, Section 8), which relates to filing and  
12 signature gathering of petitions; imposing filing fee  
13 for certain petitions; providing for reimbursement;  
14 increasing time limit for protests; requiring filing  
15 of criminal history investigation by certain persons;  
16 increasing time limit for filing objection; and  
17 providing an effective date.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2011, Section 8, as last  
20 amended by Section 8, Chapter 125, O.S.L. 2020 (34 O.S. Supp. 2020,  
21 Section 8), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 34-8. A. When a citizen or citizens desire to  
23 circulate a petition initiating a proposition of any nature, whether  
24 to become a statute law or an amendment to the Constitution, or for  
the purpose of invoking a referendum upon legislative enactments,  
such citizen or citizens shall, when such petition is prepared, and

1 before the same is circulated or signed by electors, file a true and  
2 exact copy of same in the office of the Secretary of State and shall  
3 at the same time file a separate ballot title, which shall not be  
4 part of or printed on the petition. The Secretary of State shall  
5 charge and collect a filing fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00);  
6 provided, the total fee shall be reimbursed upon qualification of  
7 the proposed petition to be placed on a ballot pursuant to the  
8 requirements of this title.

9 B. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to cause to  
10 be published, in at least one newspaper of general circulation in  
11 the state, a notice of such filing and the apparent sufficiency or  
12 insufficiency of the petition, and shall include notice that any  
13 citizen or citizens of the state may file a protest as to the  
14 constitutionality of the petition, by a written notice to the  
15 Supreme Court and to the proponent or proponents filing the  
16 petition. Any such protest must be filed within ~~ten (10) business~~  
17 ninety (90) days after publication. A copy of the protest shall be  
18 filed with the Secretary of State.

19 C. Upon the filing of a protest to the petition, the Supreme  
20 Court shall then fix a day, not less than ten (10) business days  
21 thereafter, at which time it will hear testimony and arguments for  
22 and against the sufficiency of such petition.

23 D. A protest filed by anyone hereunder may, if abandoned by the  
24 party filing same, be revived within five (5) business days by any

1 other citizen. After such hearing the Supreme Court shall decide  
2 whether such petition is in the form required by the statutes. If  
3 the Court is at the time adjourned, the Chief Justice shall  
4 immediately convene the same for such hearing. No objection to the  
5 sufficiency shall be considered unless it has been made and filed as  
6 herein provided.

7 E. Signature-gathering Deadline for Initiative Petitions. When  
8 an initiative petition has been filed in the office of the Secretary  
9 of State and all appeals, protests and rehearings have been resolved  
10 or the period for such has expired, the Secretary of State shall set  
11 the date for circulation of signatures for the petition to begin but  
12 in no event shall the date be less than fifteen (15) days nor more  
13 than thirty (30) days from the date when all appeals, protests and  
14 rehearings have been resolved or have expired. Notification shall  
15 be sent to the proponents specifying the date on which circulation  
16 of the petition shall begin and that the signatures are due within  
17 ninety (90) days of the date set. Each person responsible for the  
18 circulation of a petition for the collection of signatures shall  
19 have a criminal history investigation performed by the Oklahoma  
20 State Bureau of Investigation filed with the Secretary of State.  
21 Each elector shall sign his or her name and legibly print his or her  
22 name, birth date and address associated with his or her Oklahoma  
23 voter registration record. Any petition not filed in accordance  
24 with this provision shall not be considered. The proponents of an

1 initiative petition, any time before the final submission of  
2 signatures, may withdraw the initiative petition upon written  
3 notification to the Secretary of State.

4 F. Signature-gathering Deadline for Referendum Petitions. All  
5 signed signatures supporting a referendum petition shall be filed  
6 with the Secretary of State not later than ninety (90) days after  
7 the adjournment of the legislative session in which the measure,  
8 which is the subject of the referendum petition, was enacted.

9 G. The proponents of a referendum or an initiative petition may  
10 terminate the circulation period any time during the ninety-day  
11 circulation period by certifying to the Secretary of State that:

- 12 1. All signed petitions have already been filed with the  
13 Secretary of State;
- 14 2. No more petitions are in circulation; and
- 15 3. The proponents will not circulate any more petitions.

16 If the Secretary of State receives such a certification from the  
17 proponents, the Secretary of State shall begin the counting and  
18 review process.

19 H. When the signed copies of a petition pamphlet are timely  
20 filed, the Secretary of State shall file a copy of the proponent's  
21 ballot title with the Attorney General and, after conducting a count  
22 and review of the filed, signed petition pamphlets, the Secretary of  
23 State shall certify to the Supreme Court of the state:

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1        1. The total number of signatures counted pursuant to  
2 procedures set forth in this title; and

3        2. The total number of votes cast for the state office  
4 receiving the highest number of votes cast at the last general  
5 election.

6        The Supreme Court shall make the determination of the numerical  
7 sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures counted and reviewed  
8 by the Secretary of State.

9        I. Upon order of the Supreme Court it shall be the duty of the  
10 Secretary of State to forthwith cause to be published, in at least  
11 one newspaper of general circulation in the state, a notice of the  
12 filing of the signed petitions and the apparent sufficiency or  
13 insufficiency thereof, and shall also publish the text of the ballot  
14 title as reviewed and approved or, if applicable, as rewritten by  
15 the Attorney General pursuant to the provisions of subsection D of  
16 Section 9 of this title and notice that any citizen or citizens of  
17 the state may file an objection to the count made by the Secretary  
18 of State, by a written notice to the Supreme Court and to the  
19 proponent or proponents filing the petition. Any such objection  
20 must be filed within ~~ten (10) business~~ ninety (90) days after  
21 publication and must relate only to the validity or number of the  
22 signatures or a challenge to the ballot title. A copy of the  
23 objection to the count or ballot title shall be filed with the  
24 Supreme Court, the Attorney General and the Secretary of State.

1 J. Upon appeal and if ordered or directed by the Supreme Court,  
2 the Secretary of State shall deliver the bound volumes of signatures  
3 to the Supreme Court.

4 K. Upon the filing of an objection to the signature count or  
5 ballot title, the Supreme Court shall resolve the objection with  
6 dispatch. The Supreme Court shall adopt rules to govern proceedings  
7 to apply to the challenge of a measure on the grounds that the  
8 proponents failed to gather sufficient signatures.

9 L. If in the opinion of the Supreme Court, any objection to the  
10 count or protest to the petition is frivolous, the Court may impose  
11 appropriate sanctions, including an award of costs and attorneys  
12 fees to either party as the Court deems equitable.

13 M. Whenever reference is made in this act to the Supreme Court,  
14 such reference shall include the members of the Supreme Court, or  
15 any officer constitutionally designated to perform the duties herein  
16 prescribed.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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19 59-2-10253 LRB 02/19/24

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