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Statewide Initiative Modifications

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard

Senate Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE

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General Description:

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This bill modifies provisions governing statewide initiatives.

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Highlighted Provisions:

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This bill:

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- ▶ increases the percentage of legal signatures a person must obtain to have an initiative submitted to the Legislature from 4% to 8%;
- ▶ equalizes the percentage described above with the percentage of legal signatures a person must obtain to have an initiative submitted to a vote of the people;
- ▶ requires an initiative not enacted by the Legislature to automatically be submitted to a vote of the people at the next regular general election; and
- ▶ makes conforming changes.

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Money Appropriated in this Bill:

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None

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Other Special Clauses:

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None

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Utah Code Sections Affected:

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AMENDS:

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20A-7-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

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20A-7-208, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 107, 116

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

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Section 1. Section **20A-7-201** is amended to read:

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20A-7-201 . Statewide initiatives -- Signature requirements -- Submission to the Legislature or to a vote of the people.

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(1)(a) A person seeking to have an initiative submitted to the Legislature for approval or rejection shall, after filing an initiative application, obtain:

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(i) legal signatures equal to [4%] 8% of the number of active voters in the state on

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January 1 immediately following the last regular general election; and

- (ii) from at least 26 Utah State Senate districts, legal signatures equal to [4%] 8% of the number of active voters in that district on January 1 immediately following the last regular general election.
- (b) If, at any time not less than 10 calendar days before the beginning of the next annual general session of the Legislature, the lieutenant governor declares that an initiative petition designated under Subsection 20A-7-202(2)(c)(i) for submission to the Legislature is signed by a sufficient number of voters to meet the requirements of Subsection (1)(a), the lieutenant governor shall deliver a copy of the initiative petition, the text of the proposed law, and the cover sheet described in Subsection (1)(c) to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House, and the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.
- (c) The lieutenant governor shall prepare a cover sheet for a petition declared sufficient under Subsection (1)(b) that contains:
 - (i) the number of active voters in the state on January 1 immediately following the last regular general election;
 - (ii) the number of active voters in each Utah State Senate district on January 1 immediately following the last regular general election;
 - (iii) the total number of certified signatures obtained for the initiative petition; and
 - (iv) the total number of certified signatures obtained from each Utah State Senate district for the initiative petition.
- (a) A person seeking to have an initiative submitted to a vote of the people for approval or rejection shall, after filing an initiative application, obtain:
 - (i) legal signatures equal to 8% of the number of active voters in the state on January 1 immediately following the last regular general election; and
 - (ii) from at least 26 Utah State Senate districts, legal signatures equal to 8% of the number of active voters in that district on January 1 immediately following the last regular general election.
- (b) If an initiative petition meets the requirements of this part and the lieutenant governor declares that the initiative petition is signed by a sufficient number of voters to meet the requirements of Subsection (2)(a), the lieutenant governor shall submit the proposed law to a vote of the people at the next regular general election:
 - (i) immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202; and
 - (ii) specified on the petition under Section 20A-7-203.

65 (3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the following information to any interested person:

66 (a) the number of active voters in the state on January 1 immediately following the last

67 regular general election; and

68 (b) for each Utah State Senate district, the number of active voters in that district on

69 January 1 immediately following the last regular general election.

70 Section 2. Section **20A-7-208** is amended to read:

71 **20A-7-208 . Disposition of initiative petitions by the Legislature.**

72 (1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), when the lieutenant governor delivers an

73 initiative petition to the Legislature, the law proposed by that initiative petition shall

74 be either enacted or rejected without change or amendment by the Legislature.

75 (b) The speaker of the House and the president of the Senate may direct legislative staff

76 to make technical corrections authorized by Section 36-12-12.

77 (c) If any law proposed by an initiative petition is enacted by the Legislature, the law is

78 subject to referendum the same as other laws.

79 (2) If any law proposed by an initiative petition is not enacted by the Legislature, that

80 proposed law shall be submitted to a vote of the people at the next regular general

81 election[if:].

82 [(a) sufficient additional signatures to the petition are first obtained to bring the total

83 number of signatures up to the number required by Subsection 20A-7-201(2); and]

84 [(b) those additional signatures are verified, certified by the county clerks, and declared

85 sufficient by the lieutenant governor as provided in Section 20A-7-105 and this part.]

86 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

87 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.