

1                   **Initiative and Referendum Signature Gathering and Removal Amendments**

2                   2026 GENERAL SESSION

3                   STATE OF UTAH

4                   **Chief Sponsor: Karen M. Peterson**

5                   Senate Sponsor:

---

---

6                   **LONG TITLE**

7                   **General Description:**

8                   This bill addresses petition signature gathering and removal.

9                   **Highlighted Provisions:**

10                  This bill:

11                  ▶ requires an individual who gathers a statement requesting removal of a petition signer's  
12                  signature to be at least 18 years old;

13                  ▶ requires a paid signature removal statement gatherer to:  
14                    • display a badge disclosing certain information while gathering the statement; and  
15                    • verify, on the statement, certain information about the individual who signs the  
16                  statement;

17                  ▶ requires a signature removal statement, if collected by a paid gatherer, to include a notice  
18                  that removing the signer's signature may prevent the initiative or referendum from  
19                  appearing on the ballot;

20                  ▶ prohibits a person from paying a person to gather a signature removal statement unless  
21                  the payment is based on an hourly rate;

22                  ▶ prohibits a person from using an initiative or referendum petition signer's email address  
23                  for any non-petition related purpose;

24                  ▶ expands existing criminal penalties in relation to the initiative and referendum process by  
25                  prohibiting an individual from making certain misrepresentations while the individual:  
26                    • gathers signatures for an initiative or referendum petition; or  
27                    • gathers statements requesting removal of signatures from an initiative or referendum  
28                  petition; and

29                  ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

30                  **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

31                  None

32                  **Other Special Clauses:**

33                  None

31      **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

32      AMENDS:

33      **20A-1-1003**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 44234      **20A-7-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 44835      **20A-7-106**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 38136      **20A-7-213**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 44237      **20A-7-312**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 44238      **20A-7-512**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 44239      **20A-7-612**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442

40      ENACTS:

41      **20A-7-104.5**, Utah Code Annotated 195342      

---

---

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*43      Section 1. Section **20A-1-1003** is amended to read:44      **20A-1-1003 . Signature removal -- Statement required.**45      (1) A voter who signs a petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition  
46      by submitting to the clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.47      (2)(a)(i) [The] Subject to Subsection (2)(a)(iii), the statement described in Subsection  
48      (1) shall include:49      (A) the name or description of the petition from which the voter seeks to remove  
50      the voter's signature;  
51      (B) the name of the voter;  
52      (C) the resident address at which the voter is registered to vote;  
53      (D) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-7-106, the voter's signature; and  
54      (E) the date of the signature described in Subsection (2)(a)(i)(D).55      (ii) To increase the likelihood of the voter's signature being identified and removed,  
56      the statement may include the voter's birth date or age.57      (iii) If an individual is paid to collect a statement described in Subsection (1), the  
58      statement shall include, in addition to the information described in Subsection  
59      (2)(a)(i):60      (A) the following printed notice, appearing immediately adjacent to the voter's  
61      signature: "I understand that by signing this statement, the [name or description  
62      of petition] may not appear on the ballot."; and  
63      (B) the following verification to be completed by the individual who collects the

statement:

## "VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE REMOVAL STATEMENT

## GATHERER:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

I am at least 18 years old;

The name that appears on this statement was signed by an individual who professed to a voter who signed the [name or description of petition]; and  
The individual signed the individual's name on this statement in my presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying disability, I have signed this statement on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the individual's signature.

(Name) (Date)."

- (b) Except as provided in Subsection 20A-7-216(5)(a), 20A-7-314(5)(a), 20A-7-515(4)(b), or 20A-7-615(4)(b), a voter may not submit a statement described in Subsection (1) by email or other electronic means.
- (c) In order for the signature to be removed, the clerk must receive the statement described in Subsection (1) no later than the deadline described in the provision of law governing the petition.
- (d) A voter may only remove a signature from a petition in accordance with this section and the provision of law governing the petition.
- (e) A clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a petition, in accordance with Subsection (3).

99 (i) the address on the statement and the address provided by the individual with the  
100 individual's petition signature match the address of an individual on the official  
101 register with a substantially similar name; and  
102 (ii) the individual's signature on the statement is reasonably consistent with the  
103 signature on the statewide voter registration database of the individual described  
104 in Subsection (3)(b)(i); and  
105 (c) if there is no match of an address and a substantially similar name, the clerk shall  
106 remove the signature from the petition if:  
107 (i) the birth date or age on the statement and the birth date or age provided by the  
108 individual with the individual's petition signature match the birth date or age of an  
109 individual on the official register with a substantially similar name; and  
110 (ii) the individual's signature on the statement is reasonably consistent with the  
111 signature on the statewide voter registration database of the individual described  
112 in Subsection (3)(b)(i).  
113 (4) If a signature does not qualify for removal under Subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c), or, if  
114 applicable, Section 20A-7-106, the clerk may not remove the signature from the petition.

115 Section 2. Section **20A-7-104.5** is enacted to read:

116 **20A-7-104.5 . Signature removal statement gatherers -- Badge -- Information --**

117 **Payment.**

118 (1) An individual who gathers a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting  
119 removal of a signature from an initiative petition or referendum petition shall be at least  
120 18 years old.

121 (2) An individual described in Subsection (1) who is paid to gather a statement shall, while  
122 gathering a statement, display a badge on the front of the individual's torso that complies  
123 with the following, ensuring that the information on the badge is clearly visible to the  
124 individual from whom the statement is sought:

125 (a) the badge shall be printed in black ink on white cardstock and laminated; and

126 (b) the information on the badge shall be in at least 24-point type and include the  
127 following information:

128 (i) an identification number that is unique to the individual gathering the statement,  
129 assigned by:

130 (A) for a statewide initiative or referendum, the lieutenant governor; or

131 (B) for a local initiative or referendum, the local clerk;

132 (ii) the title of the initiative or referendum petition to which the statement relates;

- (iii) the words "Paid Signature Removal Statement Gatherer"; and
- (iv) the name of the person or entity paying the individual to gather the statement.

(3) A person may not pay an individual to gather a signature removal statement under this chapter unless the payment is based on an hourly rate.

Section 3. Section **20A-7-105** is amended to read:

## **20A-7-105 . Manual petition processes -- Obtaining signatures -- Verification --**

**Submitting the petition -- Certification of signatures -- Transfer to lieutenant governor -- Removal of signature.**

(1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process and the manual referendum process.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Local petition" means:

(i) a manual local initiative petition described in Part 5, Local Initiatives - Procedures; or

(ii) a manual local referendum petition described in Part 6, Local Referenda - Procedures.

(b) "Packet" means an initiative packet or referendum packet.

(c) "Petition" means a local petition or statewide petition.

(d) "Statewide petition" means:

- (i) a manual statewide initiative petition described in Part 2, Statewide Initiatives; or
- (ii) a manual statewide referendum petition described in Part 3, Statewide Referenda

(3)(a) A Utah voter may sign a statewide petition if the voter is a legal voter.

(b) A Utah voter may sign a local petition if the voter:

(i) is a legal voter; and

(ii) resides in the local jurisdiction.

(4)(a) The sponsors shall ensure that the individual in whose presence each signature sheet was signed:

(i) is at least 18 years old;

(ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification printed on the last page of each packet; and

(iii) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand:

(A) for an initiative petition, the law proposed by the initiative; or

(B) for a referendum petition, the law that the referendum seeks to overturn.

(b) An individual may not sign the verification printed on the last page of a packet if the

167 individual signed a signature sheet in the packet.

168 (5)(a) The sponsors, or an agent of the sponsors, shall submit a signed and verified  
169 packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was circulated before 5  
170 p.m. no later than the earlier of:

171 (i) for a statewide initiative:

- 172 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which  
173 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 174 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on  
175 which the application for the initiative petition is filed; or
- 176 (C) the February 15 immediately before the next regular general election  
177 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202;

178 (ii) for a statewide referendum:

- 179 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which  
180 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 181 (B) the first business day that is at least 40 calendar days after the day on which  
182 the legislative session at which the law passed ends;

183 (iii) for a local initiative:

- 184 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which  
185 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 186 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on  
187 which the application is filed;
- 188 (C) the April 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately  
189 after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a  
190 county initiative; or
- 191 (D) the April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election  
192 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local  
193 initiative is a municipal initiative; or

194 (iv) for a local referendum:

- 195 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which  
196 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 197 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which  
198 the sponsors receive the items described in Subsection 20A-7-604(3) from the  
199 local clerk.

200 (b) A person may not submit a packet after the applicable deadline described in

201 Subsection (5)(a).

202 (c) Before delivering an initiative packet to the county clerk under this Subsection (5),  
203 the sponsors shall send an email to each individual who provides a legible, valid  
204 email address on the signature sheet that includes the following:

205 (i) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding  
206 Your Petition Signature"; and

207 (ii) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:

208 "You signed a petition for the following initiative:

209 [insert title of initiative]

210 To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact statement, and  
211 information on the deadline for removing your signature from the petition, please visit the  
212 following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page  
213 on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's website that includes the information referred to  
214 in the email]."

215 (d) For a statewide initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which  
216 the sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the county clerk, submit to the  
217 lieutenant governor:

218 (i) a list containing:

219 (A) the name and email address of each individual the sponsors sent, or caused to  
220 be sent, the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and

221 (B) the date the email was sent;

222 (ii) a copy of the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and

223 (iii) the following written verification, completed and signed by each of the sponsors:

224 "Verification of initiative sponsor State of Utah, County of \_\_\_\_\_ I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
225 of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

226 I am a sponsor of the initiative petition entitled \_\_\_\_\_; and

227 I sent, or caused to be sent, to each individual who provided a legible, valid email  
228 address on a signature sheet submitted to the county clerk in relation to the initiative petition,  
229 the email described in Utah Code Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(c).

---

231 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date). "[.]

232 (e) For a local initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which the  
233 sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the local clerk, submit to the local clerk  
234 the items described in Subsection (5)(d).

235 (f) Signatures gathered for an initiative petition are not valid if the sponsors do not  
236 comply with Subsection (5)(c), (d), or (e).

237 (6)(a) Within 21 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk receives the  
238 packet, the county clerk shall:

239 (i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002, or 20A-7-106 if applicable,  
240 to determine whether each signer is a legal voter and, as applicable, the  
241 jurisdiction where the signer is registered to vote;

242 (ii) for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum:

243 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter;

244 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal  
245 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's  
246 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and

247 (C) deliver the verified packet to the lieutenant governor;

248 (iii) for a local initiative or a local referendum:

249 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter who is  
250 registered in the jurisdiction to which the initiative or referendum relates;

251 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal  
252 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's  
253 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and

254 (C) deliver the verified packet to the local clerk.

255 (b) For a local initiative or local referendum, the local clerk shall post a link in a  
256 conspicuous location on the local government's website to the posting described in  
257 Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(B):

258 (i) for a local initiative, during the period of time described in Subsection  
259 20A-7-507(3)(a); or

260 (ii) for a local referendum, during the period of time described in Subsection  
261 20A-7-607(2)(a)(i).

262 (7) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection (6):

263 (a) on a packet that is not verified in accordance with Subsection (4); or

264 (b) that does not have a date of signature next to the signature.

265 (8)(a) A voter who signs a statewide initiative petition may have the voter's signature  
266 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to  
267 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later  
268 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:

269 (i) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk before December 1:

270 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which  
271 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or

272 (B) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which  
273 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2);  
274 or

275 (ii) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk on or after December 1:

276 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which  
277 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or

278 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which  
279 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2).

280 (b) A voter who signs a statewide referendum petition may have the voter's signature  
281 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to  
282 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later  
283 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:

284 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the  
285 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or

286 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the  
287 lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-307(2).

288 (c) A voter who signs a local initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed  
289 from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the  
290 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later than  
291 5 p.m. the earlier of:

292 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the  
293 voter signs the signature removal statement;

294 (ii) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which the  
295 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-507(2);

296 (iii) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on  
297 which the application is filed; or

298 (iv)(A) for a county initiative, April 15 immediately before the next regular  
299 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section  
300 20A-7-502; or

301 (B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal  
302 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section

303 20A-7-502.

304 (d) A voter who signs a local referendum petition may have the voter's signature  
305 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to  
306 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later  
307 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:

308 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the  
309 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or  
310 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the  
311 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a).

312 (e) In order for the signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement  
313 described in this Subsection (8) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable deadline  
314 described in this Subsection (8).

315 (f) A county clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a  
316 petition, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(3).

317 (9)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under  
318 Subsection (8) and determines that the signature should be removed from the petition  
319 under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:

320 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are  
321 not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) or (iii)(B); and  
322 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the signature packets and signature packet  
323 totals.

324 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (9)(a) before the later of:

325 (i) the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a); or  
326 (ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement  
327 requesting signature removal under Subsection (8).

328 (10) A person may not retrieve a packet from a county clerk, or make any alterations or  
329 corrections to a packet, after the packet is submitted to the county clerk.

330 (11) A person may not use an email address provided by the signer of an initiative petition  
331 or a referendum petition for any purpose other than a purpose described in this chapter.

332 Section 4. Section **20A-7-106** is amended to read:

333 **20A-7-106 . Petition signature or removal for an individual with a disability.**

334 (1) If a voter who desires to sign a petition is, due to a qualifying disability under the  
335 Americans with Disabilities Act, unable to fill out the signature sheet or to sign the  
336 voter's name consistently, the voter may:

337 (a) inform the individual gathering signatures that, due to a qualifying disability under  
338 the Americans with Disabilities Act, the voter is unable to fill out the signature sheet  
339 or to sign the voter's name consistently; and  
340 (b) direct the individual gathering signatures to:  
341 (i) fill out the form on the signature sheet with the information provided by the voter;  
342 and  
343 (ii) in place of the registered voter's signature:  
344 (A) place the initials "AV" to indicate that the county clerk must use an alternate  
345 verification process to verify the validity of the voter's signature; and  
346 (B) place next to the initials described in Subsection (1)(b)(ii)(A) a phone number,  
347 email address, or other method that the county clerk may use to contact the  
348 voter to verify the identity of the voter.

349 (2) If a voter who desires to remove the voter's signature from a petition is, due to a  
350 qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, unable to sign the  
351 voter's name consistently, the voter may, instead of signing the statement described in  
352 Section 20A-1-1003:  
353 (a) place the initials "AV" to indicate that the county clerk must use an alternate  
354 verification process to verify the validity of the voter's signature; and  
355 (b) include in the statement a phone number, email address, or other method that the  
356 county clerk may use to contact the voter to verify the identity of the voter.

357 (3) An individual who, in the course of gathering a signature under Subsection (1) or  
358 gathering a statement requesting removal of a signature under Subsection (2), obtains a  
359 voter's email address may not use the email address for any purpose.

360 [(3)] (4) The alternate verification process described in this section includes:  
361 (a) the process described in Subsection 20A-3a-401(9)(b); or  
362 (b) another process established by rule, made by the director of elections within the  
363 Office of the Lieutenant Governor, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
364 Administrative Rulemaking Act.

365 Section 5. Section **20A-7-213** is amended to read:

366 **20A-7-213 . Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

367 (1) It is unlawful for an individual to:  
368 (a) sign any name other than the individual's own to an initiative petition or a statement  
369 described in Subsection 20A-7-105(8) or 20A-7-216(4);  
370 (b) knowingly sign the individual's name more than once for the same initiative at one

election;

- (c) knowingly indicate that an individual who signed an initiative petition signed the initiative petition on a date other than the date that the individual signed the initiative petition;
- (d) sign an initiative petition knowing the individual is not a legal voter; or
- [~~(e) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or enter any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section 20A-7-106, if the individual:~~]
  - [~~(i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;~~]
  - [~~(ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give the voter's direction or consent;~~]
  - [~~(iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;~~]
  - [~~(iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or consent of the voter; or~~]
  - [~~(v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or statement; or~~]
- [~~(f)~~] (e) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.

(2) It is unlawful for an individual to sign the verification for an initiative packet, or to electronically sign the verification for a signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(10) knowing that:

- (a) the signature date associated with the individual's signature for the initiative petition is not the date that the individual signed the initiative petition;
- (b) the individual has not witnessed the signatures of those individuals whose signatures the individual collects or submits; or
- (c) one or more individuals who signed the initiative petition are not registered to vote in Utah.

(3) It is unlawful for an individual to:

- (a) pay an individual to sign an initiative petition;
- (b) pay an individual to remove the individual's signature from an initiative petition;
- (c) accept payment to sign an initiative petition;[-or]
- (d) accept payment to have the individual's name removed from an initiative petition[-];
- (e) misrepresent that the individual is affiliated with, or acting on behalf of, a  
governmental entity while the individual gathers or attempts to gather:

405 (i) a signature for an initiative petition; or  
406 (ii) a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting removal of a signature  
407 from an initiative petition; or  
408 (f) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or enter  
409 any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section 20A-7-106, if  
410 the individual:  
411 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;  
412 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give  
413 the voter's direction or consent;  
414 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose  
415 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;  
416 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or  
417 consent of the voter; or  
418 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or  
419 statement.

420 (4) A violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.

421 Section 6. Section **20A-7-312** is amended to read:

422 **20A-7-312 . Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

423 (1) It is unlawful for any person to:

424 (a) sign any name other than the person's own to a referendum petition;  
425 (b) knowingly sign the person's name more than once for the same referendum petition  
426 at one election;  
427 (c) knowingly indicate that a person who signed a referendum petition signed the  
428 referendum petition on a date other than the date that the person signed the petition;  
429 (d) sign a referendum petition knowing the person is not a legal voter; or  
430 (e) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.

431 (2) It is unlawful for any person to sign the verification for a referendum packet, or to  
432 electronically sign the verification for a signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(10)  
433 knowing that:  
434 (a) the signature date associated with the person's signature for the referendum petition  
435 is not the date that the person signed the referendum petition;  
436 (b) the person has not witnessed the signatures of those persons whose signatures the  
437 person collects or submits; or  
438 (c) one or more individuals who sign the referendum petition are not registered to vote

439                   in Utah.

440                   (3) It is unlawful for any person to:

441                    (a) pay a person to sign a referendum petition;

442                    (b) pay a person to remove the person's signature from a referendum petition;

443                    (c) accept payment to sign a referendum petition;

444                    (d) accept payment to have the person's name removed from a referendum petition;[-or]

445                    (e) misrepresent that the individual is affiliated with, or acting on behalf of, a  
446                    governmental entity while the individual gathers or attempts to gather:  
447                    (i) a signature for a referendum petition; or  
448                    (ii) a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting removal of a signature  
449                    from a referendum petition; or

450                   [(e)] (f) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or  
451                   enter any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section  
452                   20A-7-106, if the individual:

453                    (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;

454                    (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give  
455                    the voter's direction or consent;

456                    (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose  
457                    or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;

458                    (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or  
459                    consent of the voter; or

460                    (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or  
461                    statement.

462                   (4) Any person violating this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

463                   Section 7. Section **20A-7-512** is amended to read:

464                   **20A-7-512 . Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

465                   (1) It is unlawful for any individual to:

466                    (a) sign any name other than the individual's own name to an initiative petition or a  
467                    statement described in Subsection 20A-7-105(8) or 20A-7-515(4);

468                    (b) knowingly sign the individual's name more than once for the same initiative at one  
469                    election;

470                    (c) knowingly indicate that an individual who signed an initiative petition signed the  
471                    initiative petition on a date other than the date that the individual signed the initiative  
472                    petition;

473 (d) sign an initiative petition knowing the individual is not a legal voter; or  
474 (e) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.

475 (2) It is unlawful for an individual to sign the verification for an initiative packet, or to  
476 electronically sign the verification for a signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(10),  
477 knowing that:

478 (a) the signature date associated with the individual's signature for the initiative petition  
479 is not the date that the individual signed the initiative petition;  
480 (b) the individual has not witnessed the signatures of the individuals whose signatures  
481 the individual collects or submits; or  
482 (c) one or more individuals who signed the initiative petition are not registered to vote in  
483 Utah.

484 (3) It is unlawful for an individual to:

485 (a) pay an individual to sign an initiative petition;  
486 (b) pay an individual to remove the individual's signature from an initiative petition;  
487 (c) accept payment to sign an initiative petition;  
488 (d) accept payment to have the individual's name removed from an initiative petition;[or]  
489 (e) misrepresent that the individual is affiliated with, or acting on behalf of, a  
490 governmental entity while the individual gathers or attempts to gather:  
491 (i) a signature for an initiative petition; or  
492 (ii) a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting removal of a signature  
493 from an initiative petition; or  
494 [(e)] (f) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or  
495 enter any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section  
496 20A-7-106, if the individual:  
497 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;  
498 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give  
499 the voter's direction or consent;  
500 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose  
501 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;  
502 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or  
503 consent of the voter; or  
504 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or  
505 statement.

506 (4) A violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.

507       Section 8. Section **20A-7-612** is amended to read:

508       **20A-7-612 . Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

509       (1) It is unlawful for an individual to:

- 510           (a) sign a name other than the individual's own name to any referendum petition;
- 511           (b) knowingly sign the individual's name more than once for the same referendum at one election;
- 512           (c) knowingly indicate that an individual who signed a referendum petition signed the referendum petition on a date other than the date that the individual signed the referendum petition;
- 513           (d) sign a referendum petition knowing that the individual is not a legal voter;
- 514           (e) in connection with circulating a referendum petition, represent that a document is an official government document if the individual knows or has reason to know that the document is not an official government document; or
- 515           (f) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.

520       (2) It is unlawful for an individual to sign the verification for a referendum packet, or to electronically sign the verification for a signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(10), knowing that:

- 524           (a) the signature date associated with the individual's signature for the referendum petition is not the date that the individual signed the referendum petition;
- 525           (b) the individual has not witnessed the signatures the individual collects or submits; or
- 526           (c) one or more individuals whose signatures appear in the referendum packet is not registered to vote in Utah.

529       (3) It is unlawful for an individual to:

- 530           (a) pay an individual to sign a referendum petition;
- 531           (b) pay an individual to remove the individual's signature from a referendum petition;
- 532           (c) accept payment to sign a referendum petition;
- 533           (d) accept payment to have the individual's name removed from a referendum petition;[  
534            or]
- 535           (e) misrepresent that the individual is affiliated with, or acting on behalf of, a  
536            governmental entity while the individual gathers or attempts to gather:
  - 537              (i) a signature for a referendum petition; or
  - 538              (ii) a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting removal of a signature  
539                from a referendum petition; or
- 540           (f) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or

541 enter any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section  
542 20A-7-106, if the individual:  
543 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;  
544 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give  
545 the voter's direction or consent;  
546 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose  
547 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;  
548 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or  
549 consent of the voter; or  
550 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or  
551 statement.

552 (4) A violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.

553 (5) The county attorney or municipal attorney shall prosecute any violation of this section.

554 **Section 9. Effective Date.**

555 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.