

Brady Brammer proposes the following substitute bill:

Initiative and Referendum Signature Gathering and Removal Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen M. Peterson

Senate Sponsor: Calvin R. Musselman

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses petition signature gathering and removal.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires an individual who gathers a statement requesting removal of a petition signer's signature to be at least 18 years old;
- beginning on May 6, 2026, requires a paid signature removal statement gatherer to:
 - display a badge disclosing certain information while gathering the statement; and
 - verify, on the statement, certain information about the individual who signs the statement;
- beginning on May 6, 2026, requires a signature removal statement, if collected by a paid gatherer, to include a notice that removing the signer's signature may prevent the initiative or referendum from appearing on the ballot;
- prohibits a person from paying a person to gather a signature removal statement unless the payment is based on an hourly rate;
- prohibits a person from using an initiative or referendum petition signer's email address for any non-petition related purpose;
- prohibits a voter from submitting a signature removal statement by mail;
- provides that, in certain circumstances, a county clerk may not refuse to certify an initiative or referendum petition signature solely because the written date of signature contains a one-calendar-year error;
- expands existing criminal penalties in relation to the initiative and referendum process by prohibiting an individual from:
 - making certain misrepresentations while the individual gathers petition signatures or signature removal statements; or

- 29 • providing or offering to provide any direct financial benefit to an individual to remove
30 the individual's signature from a petition;
- 31 ▸ includes a coordination clause creating an exception to the prohibition in H.B. 32,
32 Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments, on certifying a petition signature
33 dated after the submission deadline when the date qualifies for the one-calendar-year
34 error provision created by this bill; and
- 35 ▸ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

This bill provides a coordination clause.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-1-1003, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442**20A-7-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448**20A-7-106**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 381**20A-7-213**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442**20A-7-216**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448**20A-7-312**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442**20A-7-314**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448**20A-7-512**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442**20A-7-515**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448**20A-7-612**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442**20A-7-615**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

ENACTS:

20A-7-104.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953**Utah Code Sections affected by Coordination Clause:****20A-7-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*Section 1. Section **20A-1-1003** is amended to read:**20A-1-1003 . Signature removal -- Statement required.**

(1) A voter who signs a petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition

63 by submitting to the clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

64 (2)(a)(i) [~~The~~] Subject to Subsection (2)(a)(iii), the statement described in Subsection

65 (1) shall include:

66 (A) the name or description of the petition from which the voter seeks to remove
67 the voter's signature;

68 (B) the name of the voter;

69 (C) the resident address at which the voter is registered to vote;

70 (D) except as otherwise provided in Section 20A-7-106, the voter's signature; and

71 (E) the date of the signature described in Subsection (2)(a)(i)(D).

72 (ii) To increase the likelihood of the voter's signature being identified and removed,
73 the statement may include the voter's birth date or age.

74 (iii) Beginning on May 6, 2026, if an individual is paid to collect a statement
75 described in Subsection (1), the statement shall include, in addition to the
76 information described in Subsection (2)(a)(i):

77 (A) the following printed notice, appearing immediately adjacent to the voter's
78 signature: "I understand that by signing this statement, the [name or description
79 of petition] may not appear on the ballot."; and

80 (B) the following verification to be completed by the individual who collects the
81 statement:

82 "VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURE REMOVAL STATEMENT

83 GATHERER:

84 I, _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

85 I am at least 18 years old;

86 The name that appears on this statement was signed by an individual who
87 professed to a voter who signed the [name or description of petition]; and

88 The individual signed the individual's name on this statement in my
89 presence or, in the case of an individual with a qualifying disability, I have

90 signed this statement on the individual's behalf, at the direction of the

91 individual and in the individual's presence, by entering the initials "AV" as the
92 individual's signature.

93 _____

94 (Name) (Date)."

95 (b) [~~Except as provided in Subsection 20A-7-216(5)(a), 20A-7-314(5)(a);~~

96 ~~20A-7-515(4)(b), or 20A-7-615(4)(b), a] A voter may not submit a statement~~

- 97 described in Subsection (1) by mail, email, or other electronic means.
- 98 (c) In order for the signature to be removed, the clerk must receive the statement
99 described in Subsection (1) no later than the deadline described in the provision of
100 law governing the petition.
- 101 (d) A voter may only remove a signature from a petition in accordance with this section
102 and the provision of law governing the petition.
- 103 (e) A clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a
104 petition, in accordance with Subsection (3).
- 105 (3) Except to the extent otherwise required under Section 20A-7-106, the clerk shall use the
106 following procedures to determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a
107 petition after receiving a timely, valid statement requesting removal of the signature:
- 108 (a) if the signer's name and address shown on the statement and the petition exactly
109 match a name and address shown on the official register and the individual's
110 signature on the statement is reasonably consistent with the individual's signature on
111 the statewide voter registration database, the clerk shall remove the signature from
112 the petition;
- 113 (b) if there is no exact match of an address and a name, the clerk shall remove the
114 signature from the petition if:
- 115 (i) the address on the statement and the address provided by the individual with the
116 individual's petition signature match the address of an individual on the official
117 register with a substantially similar name; and
- 118 (ii) the individual's signature on the statement is reasonably consistent with the
119 signature on the statewide voter registration database of the individual described
120 in Subsection (3)(b)(i); and
- 121 (c) if there is no match of an address and a substantially similar name, the clerk shall
122 remove the signature from the petition if:
- 123 (i) the birth date or age on the statement and the birth date or age provided by the
124 individual with the individual's petition signature match the birth date or age of an
125 individual on the official register with a substantially similar name; and
- 126 (ii) the individual's signature on the statement is reasonably consistent with the
127 signature on the statewide voter registration database of the individual described
128 in Subsection (3)(b)(i).
- 129 (4) If a signature does not qualify for removal under Subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c), or, if
130 applicable, Section 20A-7-106, the clerk may not remove the signature from the petition.

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

132 **20A-7-104.5 . Signature removal statement gatherers -- Badge -- Information --**
 133 **Payment.**

134 (1) An individual who gathers a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting
 135 removal of a signature from an initiative petition or referendum petition shall be at least
 136 18 years old.

137 (2) Beginning on May 6, 2026, an individual described in Subsection (1) who is paid to
 138 gather a statement shall, while gathering a statement, display a badge on the front of the
 139 individual's torso that complies with the following, ensuring that the information on the
 140 badge is clearly visible to the individual from whom the statement is sought:

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

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

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

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

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

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

149 (iii) the words "Paid Signature Removal Statement Gatherer"; and

150 (iv) the name of the person or entity paying the individual to gather the statement.

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

153 *The following section is affected by a coordination clause at the end of this bill.*

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

155 **20A-7-105 . Manual petition processes -- Obtaining signatures -- Verification --**

156 **Submitting the petition -- Certification of signatures -- Transfer to lieutenant governor --**

157 **Removal of signature.**

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

160 (2) As used in this section:

161 (a) "Local petition" means:

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

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

- 165 Procedures.
- 166 (b) "Packet" means an initiative packet or referendum packet.
- 167 (c) "Petition" means a local petition or statewide petition.
- 168 (d) "Statewide petition" means:
- 169 (i) a manual statewide initiative petition described in Part 2, Statewide Initiatives; or
- 170 (ii) a manual statewide referendum petition described in Part 3, Statewide Referenda.
- 171 (3)(a) A Utah voter may sign a statewide petition if the voter is a legal voter.
- 172 (b) A Utah voter may sign a local petition if the voter:
- 173 (i) is a legal voter; and
- 174 (ii) resides in the local jurisdiction.
- 175 (4)(a) The sponsors shall ensure that the individual in whose presence each signature
- 176 sheet was signed:
- 177 (i) is at least 18 years old;
- 178 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification printed on the last
- 179 page of each packet; and
- 180 (iii) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand:
- 181 (A) for an initiative petition, the law proposed by the initiative; or
- 182 (B) for a referendum petition, the law that the referendum seeks to overturn.
- 183 (b) An individual may not sign the verification printed on the last page of a packet if the
- 184 individual signed a signature sheet in the packet.
- 185 (5)(a) The sponsors, or an agent of the sponsors, shall submit a signed and verified
- 186 packet to the county clerk of the county in which the packet was circulated before 5
- 187 p.m. no later than the earlier of:
- 188 (i) for a statewide initiative:
- 189 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
- 190 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 191 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
- 192 which the application for the initiative petition is filed; or
- 193 (C) the February 15 immediately before the next regular general election
- 194 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202;
- 195 (ii) for a statewide referendum:
- 196 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
- 197 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 198 (B) the first business day that is at least 40 calendar [-]days after the day on which

- 199 the legislative session at which the law passed ends;
- 200 (iii) for a local initiative:
- 201 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
- 202 the first individual signs the initiative packet;
- 203 (B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
- 204 which the application is filed;
- 205 (C) the April 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately
- 206 after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a
- 207 county initiative; or
- 208 (D) the April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election
- 209 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local
- 210 initiative is a municipal initiative; or
- 211 (iv) for a local referendum:
- 212 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
- 213 the first individual signs the referendum packet; or
- 214 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which
- 215 the sponsors receive the items described in Subsection 20A-7-604(3) from the
- 216 local clerk.
- 217 (b) A person may not submit a packet after the applicable deadline described in
- 218 Subsection (5)(a).
- 219 (c) Before delivering an initiative packet to the county clerk under this Subsection (5),
- 220 the sponsors shall send an email to each individual who provides a legible, valid
- 221 email address on the signature sheet that includes the following:
- 222 (i) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding
- 223 Your Petition Signature"; and
- 224 (ii) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:
- 225 "You signed a petition for the following initiative:
- 226 [insert title of initiative]
- 227 To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact statement, and
- 228 information on the deadline for removing your signature from the petition, please visit the
- 229 following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page
- 230 on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's website that includes the information referred to
- 231 in the email]."
- 232 (d) For a statewide initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which

- 233 the sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the county clerk, submit to the
 234 lieutenant governor:
- 235 (i) a list containing:
- 236 (A) the name and email address of each individual the sponsors sent, or caused to
 237 be sent, the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and
- 238 (B) the date the email was sent;
- 239 (ii) a copy of the email described in Subsection (5)(c); and
- 240 (iii) the following written verification, completed and signed by each of the sponsors:
- 241 "Verification of initiative sponsor State of Utah, County of _____ I, _____,
 242 of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:
- 243 I am a sponsor of the initiative petition entitled _____; and
- 244 I sent, or caused to be sent, to each individual who provided a legible, valid email
 245 address on a signature sheet submitted to the county clerk in relation to the initiative petition,
 246 the email described in Utah Code Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(c).
- 247 _____
- 248 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date);"[-]
- 249 (e) For a local initiative, the sponsors shall, no later than 5 p.m. on the day on which the
 250 sponsors submit the last initiative packet to the local clerk, submit to the local clerk
 251 the items described in Subsection (5)(d).
- 252 (f) Signatures gathered for an initiative petition are not valid if the sponsors do not
 253 comply with Subsection (5)(c), (d), or (e).
- 254 (6)(a) Within 21 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk receives the
 255 packet, the county clerk shall:
- 256 (i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002, or 20A-7-106 if applicable,
 257 to determine whether each signer is a legal voter and, as applicable, the
 258 jurisdiction where the signer is registered to vote;
- 259 (ii) for a statewide initiative or a statewide referendum:
- 260 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter;
- 261 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal
 262 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
 263 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and
- 264 (C) deliver the verified packet to the lieutenant governor; and
- 265 (iii) for a local initiative or a local referendum:
- 266 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter who is

- 267 registered in the jurisdiction to which the initiative or referendum relates;
- 268 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal
- 269 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
- 270 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and
- 271 (C) deliver the verified packet to the local clerk.
- 272 (b) For a local initiative or local referendum, the local clerk shall post a link in a
- 273 conspicuous location on the local government's website to the posting described in
- 274 Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(B):
- 275 (i) for a local initiative, during the period of time described in Subsection
- 276 20A-7-507(3)(a); or
- 277 (ii) for a local referendum, during the period of time described in Subsection
- 278 20A-7-607(2)(a)(i).
- 279 (7)(a) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection ~~[(6)]~~ (6)(a):
- 280 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) on a packet that is not verified in accordance with Subsection (4); or
- 281 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) that does not have a date of signature next to the signature.
- 282 (b) A county clerk may not refuse to certify a signature under Subsection (6)(a) or
- 283 otherwise reject the packet solely because the date written next to the signature
- 284 contains a one-calendar-year error if the date, adjusted by one calendar year, would
- 285 fall within the period that:
- 286 (i) begins on the day on which the first individual signs the packet under Subsection
- 287 (5)(a); and
- 288 (ii) ends on the day on which the packet is submitted.
- 289 (c) Certification of a signature described in Subsection (7)(b) does not change the date
- 290 on which the first individual signs the packet for purposes of calculating a deadline
- 291 under Subsection (5)(a).
- 292 (8)(a) A voter who signs a statewide initiative petition may have the voter's signature
- 293 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
- 294 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
- 295 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 296 (i) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk before December 1:
- 297 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
- 298 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
- 299 (B) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which
- 300 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2);

- 301 or
- 302 (ii) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk on or after December 1:
- 303 (A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which
- 304 the voter signs the signature removal statement; or
- 305 (B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which
- 306 the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-207(2).
- 307 (b) A voter who signs a statewide referendum petition may have the voter's signature
- 308 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
- 309 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
- 310 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 311 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
- 312 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
- 313 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
- 314 lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-307(2).
- 315 (c) A voter who signs a local initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed
- 316 from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the
- 317 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later than
- 318 5 p.m. the earlier of:
- 319 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
- 320 voter signs the signature removal statement;
- 321 (ii) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which the
- 322 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-507(2);
- 323 (iii) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on
- 324 which the application is filed; or
- 325 (iv)(A) for a county initiative, April 15 immediately before the next regular
- 326 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
- 327 20A-7-502; or
- 328 (B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal
- 329 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
- 330 20A-7-502.
- 331 (d) A voter who signs a local referendum petition may have the voter's signature
- 332 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
- 333 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
- 334 than 5 p.m. the earlier of:

- 335 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
336 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
- 337 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
338 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a).
- 339 (e) In order for the signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement
340 described in this Subsection (8) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable deadline
341 described in this Subsection (8).
- 342 (f) A county clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a
343 petition, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(3).
- 344 (9)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under
345 Subsection (8) and determines that the signature should be removed from the petition
346 under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:
- 347 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are
348 not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) or (iii)(B); and
- 349 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the signature packets and signature packet
350 totals.
- 351 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (9)(a) before the later of:
- 352 (i) the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a); or
- 353 (ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement
354 requesting signature removal under Subsection (8).
- 355 (10) A person may not retrieve a packet from a county clerk, or make any alterations or
356 corrections to a packet, after the packet is submitted to the county clerk.
- 357 (11) A person may not use an email address provided by the signer of an initiative petition
358 or a referendum petition for any purpose other than a purpose described in this chapter.
- 359 Section 4. Section **20A-7-106** is amended to read:
- 360 **20A-7-106 . Petition signature or removal for an individual with a disability.**
- 361 (1) If a voter who desires to sign a petition is, due to a qualifying disability under the
362 Americans with Disabilities Act, unable to fill out the signature sheet or to sign the
363 voter's name consistently, the voter may:
- 364 (a) inform the individual gathering signatures that, due to a qualifying disability under
365 the Americans with Disabilities Act, the voter is unable to fill out the signature sheet
366 or to sign the voter's name consistently; and
- 367 (b) direct the individual gathering signatures to:
- 368 (i) fill out the form on the signature sheet with the information provided by the voter;

- 369 and
- 370 (ii) in place of the registered voter's signature:
- 371 (A) place the initials "AV" to indicate that the county clerk must use an alternate
- 372 verification process to verify the validity of the voter's signature; and
- 373 (B) place next to the initials described in Subsection (1)(b)(ii)(A) a phone number,
- 374 email address, or other method that the county clerk may use to contact the
- 375 voter to verify the identity of the voter.
- 376 (2) If a voter who desires to remove the voter's signature from a petition is, due to a
- 377 qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, unable to sign the
- 378 voter's name consistently, the voter may, instead of signing the statement described in
- 379 Section 20A-1-1003:
- 380 (a) place the initials "AV" to indicate that the county clerk must use an alternate
- 381 verification process to verify the validity of the voter's signature; and
- 382 (b) include in the statement a phone number, email address, or other method that the
- 383 county clerk may use to contact the voter to verify the identity of the voter.
- 384 (3) An individual who, in the course of gathering a signature under Subsection (1) or
- 385 gathering a statement requesting removal of a signature under Subsection (2), obtains a
- 386 voter's email address may not use the email address for any purpose.
- 387 [~~3~~] (4) The alternate verification process described in this section includes:
- 388 (a) the process described in Subsection 20A-3a-401(9)(b); or
- 389 (b) another process established by rule, made by the director of elections within the
- 390 Office of the Lieutenant Governor, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
- 391 Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- 392 Section 5. Section **20A-7-213** is amended to read:
- 393 **20A-7-213 . Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**
- 394 (1) It is unlawful for an individual to:
- 395 (a) sign any name other than the individual's own to an initiative petition or a statement
- 396 described in Subsection 20A-7-105(8) or 20A-7-216(4);
- 397 (b) knowingly sign the individual's name more than once for the same initiative at one
- 398 election;
- 399 (c) knowingly indicate that an individual who signed an initiative petition signed the
- 400 initiative petition on a date other than the date that the individual signed the initiative
- 401 petition;
- 402 (d) sign an initiative petition knowing the individual is not a legal voter; or

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

406 ~~[(i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;]~~

407 ~~[(ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give~~
 408 ~~the voter's direction or consent;]~~

409 ~~[(iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose~~
 410 ~~or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;]~~

411 ~~[(iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or~~
 412 ~~consent of the voter; or]~~

413 ~~[(v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or~~
 414 ~~statement; or]~~

415 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.

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

419 (a) the signature date associated with the individual's signature for the initiative petition
 420 is not the date that the individual signed the initiative petition;

421 (b) the individual has not witnessed the signatures of those individuals whose signatures
 422 the individual collects or submits; or

423 (c) one or more individuals who signed the initiative petition are not registered to vote in
 424 Utah.

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

426 (a) pay an individual to sign an initiative petition;

427 ~~[(b) pay an individual to remove the individual's signature from an initiative petition;]~~

428 (b) pay an individual, or provide or offer to provide any other direct financial benefit to
 429 an individual, to remove the individual's signature from an initiative petition;

430 (c) accept payment to sign an initiative petition;~~[-or]~~

431 (d) accept payment to have the individual's name removed from an initiative petition~~[-]~~ ;

432 (e) misrepresent that the individual is affiliated with, or acting on behalf of, a
 433 governmental entity while the individual gathers or attempts to gather:

434 (i) a signature for an initiative petition; or

435 (ii) a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting removal of a signature
 436 from an initiative petition; or

- 437 (f) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or enter
438 any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section 20A-7-106, if
439 the individual:
- 440 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;
 - 441 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give
442 the voter's direction or consent;
 - 443 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose
444 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;
 - 445 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or
446 consent of the voter; or
 - 447 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or
448 statement.

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

450 Section 6. Section **20A-7-216** is amended to read:

451 **20A-7-216 . Electronic initiative process -- Obtaining signatures -- Request to**
452 **remove signature.**

453 (1) This section applies to the electronic initiative process.

454 (2) A Utah voter may sign an initiative petition if the voter is a legal voter.

455 (3) The sponsors shall ensure that the signature-gatherer who collects a signature from an
456 individual:

457 (a) verifies that the individual is at least 18 years old and meets the residency
458 requirements of Section 20A-2-105; and

459 (b) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand the law proposed by
460 the initiative.

461 (4) A voter who signs an initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed from the
462 initiative petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the county
463 clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed before 5 p.m. no later
464 than the earlier of:

465 (a) for an electronic signature gathered before December 1:

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

468 (ii) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which the
469 county clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-217(4); or

470 (b) for an electronic signature gathered on or after December 1:

- 471 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
 472 voter signs the signature removal statement; or
- 473 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
 474 county clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-217(4).
- 475 (5)(a) A voter may not submit a signature removal statement described in Subsection (4)
 476 by mail, email, or other electronic means~~[- unless the lieutenant governor establishes~~
 477 ~~a signature removal process that is consistent with the requirements of this section~~
 478 ~~and Section 20A-21-201].~~
- 479 (b) A person may only remove an electronic signature from an initiative petition in
 480 accordance with this section.
- 481 (c) A county clerk shall analyze a holographic signature, for purposes of removing an
 482 electronic signature from an initiative petition, in accordance with Subsection
 483 20A-1-1003(3).

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

485 **20A-7-312 . Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

- 486 (1) It is unlawful for any person to:
- 487 (a) sign any name other than the person's own to a referendum petition;
- 488 (b) knowingly sign the person's name more than once for the same referendum petition
 489 at one election;
- 490 (c) knowingly indicate that a person who signed a referendum petition signed the
 491 referendum petition on a date other than the date that the person signed the petition;
- 492 (d) sign a referendum petition knowing the person is not a legal voter; or
- 493 (e) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.
- 494 (2) It is unlawful for any person to sign the verification for a referendum packet, or to
 495 electronically sign the verification for a signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(10)
 496 knowing that:
- 497 (a) the signature date associated with the person's signature for the referendum petition
 498 is not the date that the person signed the referendum petition;
- 499 (b) the person has not witnessed the signatures of those persons whose signatures the
 500 person collects or submits; or
- 501 (c) one or more individuals who sign the referendum petition are not registered to vote
 502 in Utah.
- 503 (3) It is unlawful for ~~[any person]~~ an individual to:
- 504 (a) pay ~~[a person]~~ an individual to sign a referendum petition;

- 505 ~~[(b) pay a person to remove the person's signature from a referendum petition;]~~
 506 (b) pay an individual, or provide or offer to provide any other direct financial benefit to
 507 an individual, to remove the individual's signature from a referendum petition;
 508 (c) accept payment to sign a referendum petition;
 509 (d) accept payment to have the ~~[person's]~~ individual's name removed from a referendum
 510 petition;~~[-or]~~
 511 (e) misrepresent that the individual is affiliated with, or acting on behalf of, a
 512 governmental entity while the individual gathers or attempts to gather:
 513 (i) a signature for a referendum petition; or
 514 (ii) a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting removal of a signature
 515 from a referendum petition; or
 516 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or
 517 enter any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section
 518 20A-7-106, if the individual:
 519 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;
 520 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give
 521 the voter's direction or consent;
 522 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose
 523 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;
 524 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or
 525 consent of the voter; or
 526 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or
 527 statement.
- 528 (4) Any person violating this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.
 529 Section 8. Section **20A-7-314** is amended to read:
 530 **20A-7-314 . Electronic referendum process -- Obtaining signatures -- Request to**
 531 **remove signature.**
 532 (1) This section applies to the electronic referendum process.
 533 (2) A Utah voter may sign a referendum petition if the voter is a legal voter.
 534 (3) The sponsors shall ensure that the signature-gatherer who collects a signature from an
 535 individual:
 536 (a) verifies that the individual is at least 18 years old and meets the residency
 537 requirements of Section 20A-2-105; and
 538 (b) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand the law that is the

539 subject of the referendum petition.

540 (4) A voter who signs a referendum petition may have the voter's signature removed from
541 the referendum petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the
542 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed before 5 p.m.
543 no later than the earlier of:

544 (a) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the voter
545 signs the statement requesting removal; or

546 (b) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the
547 lieutenant governor posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-315(4).

548 (5)(a) A voter may not submit a signature removal statement described in Subsection (4)
549 by mail, email, or other electronic means~~[, unless the lieutenant governor establishes~~
550 ~~a signature removal process that is consistent with the requirements of this section~~
551 ~~and Section 20A-21-201].~~

552 (b) A person may only remove an electronic signature from a referendum petition in
553 accordance with this section.

554 (c) A county clerk shall analyze a holographic signature, for purposes of removing an
555 electronic signature from a referendum petition, in accordance with Subsection
556 20A-1-1003(3).

557 Section 9. Section **20A-7-512** is amended to read:

558 **20A-7-512 . Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

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

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

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

564 (c) knowingly indicate that an individual who signed an initiative petition signed the
565 initiative petition on a date other than the date that the individual signed the initiative
566 petition;

567 (d) sign an initiative petition knowing the individual is not a legal voter; or

568 (e) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.

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

572 (a) the signature date associated with the individual's signature for the initiative petition

- 573 is not the date that the individual signed the initiative petition;
- 574 (b) the individual has not witnessed the signatures of the individuals whose signatures
575 the individual collects or submits; or
- 576 (c) one or more individuals who signed the initiative petition are not registered to vote in
577 Utah.
- 578 (3) It is unlawful for an individual to:
- 579 (a) pay an individual to sign an initiative petition;
- 580 ~~[(b) pay an individual to remove the individual's signature from an initiative petition;]~~
- 581 (b) pay an individual, or provide or offer to provide any other direct financial benefit to
582 an individual, to remove the individual's signature from an initiative petition;
- 583 (c) accept payment to sign an initiative petition;
- 584 (d) accept payment to have the individual's name removed from an initiative petition;~~[-or]~~
- 585 (e) misrepresent that the individual is affiliated with, or acting on behalf of, a
586 governmental entity while the individual gathers or attempts to gather:
- 587 (i) a signature for an initiative petition; or
- 588 (ii) a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting removal of a signature
589 from an initiative petition; or
- 590 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or
591 enter any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section
592 20A-7-106, if the individual:
- 593 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;
- 594 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give
595 the voter's direction or consent;
- 596 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose
597 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;
- 598 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or
599 consent of the voter; or
- 600 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or
601 statement.
- 602 (4) A violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.
- 603 Section 10. Section **20A-7-515** is amended to read:
- 604 **20A-7-515 . Electronic initiative process -- Obtaining signatures -- Request to**
605 **remove signature.**
- 606 (1) This section applies to the electronic initiative process.

- 607 (2) A Utah voter may sign a local initiative petition if the voter is a legal voter and resides
608 in the local jurisdiction.
- 609 (3) The sponsors shall ensure that the signature-gatherer who collects a signature from an
610 individual:
- 611 (a) verifies that the individual is at least 18 years old and meets the residency
612 requirements of Section 20A-2-105; and
- 613 (b) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand the law proposed by
614 the initiative.
- 615 (4)(a) A voter who signs an initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed
616 from the initiative petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
617 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed before 5
618 p.m. no later than the earlier of:
- 619 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
620 voter signs the signature removal statement;
- 621 (ii) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which the
622 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-516(4);
- 623 (iii) the first business day that is at least 316 calendar days after the day on which the
624 initiative application is filed; or
- 625 (iv)(A) for a county initiative, April 15 immediately before the next regular
626 general election immediately after the initiative application is filed under
627 Section 20A-7-502; or
- 628 (B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal
629 general election immediately after the initiative application is filed under
630 Section 20A-7-502.
- 631 (b) A voter may not submit a signature removal statement described in Subsection (4)(a)
632 by mail, email, or other electronic means~~[, unless the lieutenant governor establishes~~
633 ~~a signature removal process that is consistent with the requirements of this section~~
634 ~~and Section 20A-21-201].~~
- 635 (c) A person may only remove an electronic signature from an initiative petition in
636 accordance with this section.
- 637 (d) A county clerk shall analyze a holographic signature, for purposes of removing an
638 electronic signature from an initiative petition, in accordance with Subsection
639 20A-1-1003(3).
- 640 Section 11. Section **20A-7-612** is amended to read:

641 **20A-7-612 . Misconduct of electors and officers -- Penalty.**

- 642 (1) It is unlawful for an individual to:
- 643 (a) sign a name other than the individual's own name to any referendum petition;
- 644 (b) knowingly sign the individual's name more than once for the same referendum at one
645 election;
- 646 (c) knowingly indicate that an individual who signed a referendum petition signed the
647 referendum petition on a date other than the date that the individual signed the
648 referendum petition;
- 649 (d) sign a referendum petition knowing that the individual is not a legal voter;
- 650 (e) in connection with circulating a referendum petition, represent that a document is an
651 official government document if the individual knows or has reason to know that the
652 document is not an official government document; or
- 653 (f) knowingly and willfully violate any provision of this part.
- 654 (2) It is unlawful for an individual to sign the verification for a referendum packet, or to
655 electronically sign the verification for a signature under Subsection 20A-21-201(10),
656 knowing that:
- 657 (a) the signature date associated with the individual's signature for the referendum
658 petition is not the date that the individual signed the referendum petition;
- 659 (b) the individual has not witnessed the signatures the individual collects or submits; or
- 660 (c) one or more individuals whose signatures appear in the referendum packet is not
661 registered to vote in Utah.
- 662 (3) It is unlawful for an individual to:
- 663 (a) pay an individual to sign a referendum petition;
- 664 ~~[(b) pay an individual to remove the individual's signature from a referendum petition;]~~
- 665 (b) pay an individual, or provide or offer to provide any other direct financial benefit to
666 an individual, to remove the individual's signature from a referendum petition;
- 667 (c) accept payment to sign a referendum petition;
- 668 (d) accept payment to have the individual's name removed from a referendum petition;[
669 or]
- 670 (e) misrepresent that the individual is affiliated with, or acting on behalf of, a
671 governmental entity while the individual gathers or attempts to gather:
- 672 (i) a signature for a referendum petition; or
- 673 (ii) a statement described in Section 20A-1-1003 requesting removal of a signature
674 from a referendum petition; or

675 [(e)] (f) on behalf of a voter described in Section 20A-7-106, place the initials "AV" or
 676 enter any information on a signature sheet or statement described in Section
 677 20A-7-106, if the individual:

- 678 (i) does not obtain the voluntary direction or consent of the voter;
 679 (ii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter lacks the mental capacity to give
 680 the voter's direction or consent;
 681 (iii) believes or has reason to believe that the voter does not understand the purpose
 682 or nature of the action taken by the individual on behalf of the voter;
 683 (iv) intentionally or knowingly deceives the voter into providing the direction or
 684 consent of the voter; or
 685 (v) intentionally or knowingly enters false information on the signature sheet or
 686 statement.

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

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

689 Section 12. Section **20A-7-615** is amended to read:

690 **20A-7-615 . Electronic referendum process -- Obtaining signatures -- Request to**
 691 **remove signature.**

692 (1) This section applies to the electronic referendum process described in Section
 693 20A-21-201.

694 (2) A Utah voter may sign a local referendum petition if the voter is a legal voter and
 695 resides in the local jurisdiction.

696 (3) The sponsors shall ensure that the signature-gatherer who collects a signature from an
 697 individual:

- 698 (a) verifies that the individual is at least 18 years old and meets the residency
 699 requirements of Section 20A-2-105; and
 700 (b) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand the law that is the
 701 subject of the referendum petition.

702 (4)(a) A voter who signs a referendum petition may have the voter's signature removed
 703 from the referendum petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting
 704 to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed
 705 before 5 p.m. no later than the earlier of:

- 706 (i) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the
 707 voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
 708 (ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the

- 709 local clerk posts the voter's name under Subsection 20A-7-616(3).
- 710 (b) A voter may not submit a signature removal statement described in Subsection (4)(a)
- 711 by mail, email, or other electronic means~~[, unless the lieutenant governor establishes~~
- 712 ~~a signature removal process that is consistent with the requirements of this section~~
- 713 ~~and Section 20A-21-201].~~
- 714 (c) A person may only remove an electronic signature from a referendum petition in
- 715 accordance with this section.
- 716 (d) A county clerk shall analyze a holographic signature, for purposes of removing an
- 717 electronic signature from a referendum petition, in accordance with Subsection
- 718 20A-1-1003(3).

719 Section 13. **Effective Date.**

720 This bill takes effect:

- 721 (1) except as provided in Subsection (2), May 6, 2026; or
- 722 (2) if approved by two-thirds of all members elected to each house:
- 723 (a) upon approval by the governor;
- 724 (b) without the governor's signature, the day following the constitutional time limit of
- 725 Utah Constitution, Article VII, Section 8; or
- 726 (c) in the case of a veto, the date of veto override.

727 Section 14. **Coordinating H.B. 242 with H.B. 32.**

728 If H.B. 242, Initiative and Referendum Signature Gathering and Removal Amendments,

729 and H.B. 32, Signature Gathering and Verification Amendments, both pass and become law,

730 the Legislature intends that, on May 6, 2026, Subsection 20A-7-105(7)(c), enacted in H.B. 32,

731 be renumbered to Subsection 20A-7-105(7)(a)(iii) and be amended to read:

732 "(iii) except as provided in Subsection (7)(b), if the date of signature is later than the

733 applicable deadline described in Subsection (5)(a)."