

1 **Initiative and Referenda Signature Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard

Senate Sponsor:

2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill creates a process to cure an initiative or referendum petition signature that is
5 declared invalid.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8
- 9 ▶ establishes a process to cure a signature on an initiative or referendum petition that is
10 declared invalid by a county clerk because the signature does not match the signature on
11 file in the statewide voter registration database;
 - 12 ▶ requires a county clerk to notify an individual described above when the county clerk
13 determines that the individual's signature does not match the signature on file;
 - 14 ▶ allows the individual to cure the invalid signature by delivering to the county clerk a
15 signed affidavit attesting to the validity of the signature;
 - 16 ▶ establishes deadlines related to the processes described above; and
 - 17 ▶ provides that a county clerk may not count the individual's signature as valid unless the
18 affidavit is timely received.

19 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

20 None

21 **Other Special Clauses:**

22 None

23 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

24 ENACTS:

25 **20A-7-105.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

26
27 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

28 Section 1. Section **20A-7-105.5** is enacted to read:

29 **20A-7-105.5 . Signature curing -- Process -- Affidavit required.**

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

31 process.

32 (2) If, under Subsection 20A-1-1002(1)(a), (b), or (c), a county clerk declares invalid the
33 signature of an individual who signs an initiative petition or referendum petition because
34 the county clerk determines that the individual's signature does not appear substantially
35 similar to the signature on file in the statewide voter registration database, the county
36 clerk shall:

37 (a) contact the individual in accordance with Subsection (6); and

38 (b) inform the individual that:

39 (i) the individual's signature was declared invalid; and

40 (ii) in order for the signature to be counted as valid, the individual is required to
41 timely deliver to the county clerk a signed and completed affidavit that complies
42 with the requirements described in Subsection (3).

43 (3) The affidavit described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii) shall include:

44 (a) an attestation that the individual signed the initiative petition or referendum petition;

45 (b) a space for the individual to enter the individual's printed name, residential address,
46 phone number, and, if available, email address;

47 (c) a space for the individual to sign the affidavit;

48 (d) a statement that, by signing the affidavit, the individual authorizes the lieutenant
49 governor's and county clerk's use of the individual's signature on the affidavit for
50 voter identification purposes; and

51 (e) a check box accompanied by language in substantially the following form: "I am a
52 voter with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act that
53 impacts my ability to sign my name consistently. I can provide appropriate
54 documentation upon request. To discuss accommodations, I can be contacted at
55 _____."

56 (4) An individual described in Subsection (2) shall, to have the individual's signature on an
57 initiative petition or referendum petition counted as valid, deliver to the county clerk a
58 signed and completed affidavit no later than 31 calendar days after the day on which the
59 county clerk receives the initiative packet or referendum packet containing the
60 individual's signature.

61 (5) An election officer who receives a signed and completed affidavit under Subsection (4)
62 shall immediately:

63 (a) scan the signature on the affidavit electronically and keep the signature on file in the
64 statewide voter registration database;

- 65 **(b) if the county clerk timely receives the affidavit under Subsection (4), count the**
66 **individual's signature as valid; and**
- 67 **(c) if the check box described in Subsection (3)(e) is checked, comply with the alternate**
68 **verification process described in Subsection 20A-7-106(3).**
- 69 **(6)(a) A county clerk shall, within two business days after the day on which an**
70 **individual's signature is declared invalid, notify the individual of the invalidity and**
71 **the reason for the invalidity by phone, mail, email, or, if consent is obtained on the**
72 **individual's voter registration form, text message.**
- 73 **(b) The county clerk shall ensure that the notice described in Subsection (6)(a) includes:**
- 74 **(i) if communicating the notice by mail, a printed copy of the affidavit described in**
75 **Subsection (3) and a courtesy reply envelope;**
- 76 **(ii) if communicating the notice electronically, a link to a copy of the affidavit**
77 **described in Subsection (3) or information on how to obtain a copy of the**
78 **affidavit; or**
- 79 **(iii) if communicating the notice by phone, either during a direct conversation with**
80 **the individual or in a voicemail, arrangements for the individual to receive a copy**
81 **of the affidavit described in Subsection (3), either in person from the county**
82 **clerk's office, by mail, or electronically.**
- 83 **(7) A county clerk may not count as valid the signature of an individual whom the county**
84 **clerk contacts under Subsection (2) unless, no later than the deadline described in**
85 **Subsection (4), the county clerk receives a signed and completed affidavit from the**
86 **individual under Subsection (4).**
- 87 **Section 2. **Effective Date.****
- 88 **This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.**