Ballot Measure Amendments

2027 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor:

Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions relating to ballot measures.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- amends deadlines, requirements, and procedures related to ballot measures, including those relating to:
  - ballot titles;
  - assigning letters or numbers to ballot measures;
  - analyses or summaries of ballot measures;
  - arguments and rebuttal arguments for and against ballot measures;
  - the provision or publication of notice; and
  - certification and removal of signatures;
- ensures that only a voter's voter identification number, and not a voter's name, is posted when the voter signs a petition for an initiative or a referendum;
- adds appeal procedures to challenge certain actions relating to ballot measures, including:
  - ballot titles; and
  - analyses or summaries of ballot measures; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

20A-6-107 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 458

20A-7-103 (Contingently Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 102

20A-7-105 (Effective 05/05/27) (Partially Repealed 01/01/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 102
20A-7-202.5 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 293
20A-7-203 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 102
20A-7-204.1 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448
20A-7-207 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448
20A-7-209 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 442
20A-7-216 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 27
20A-7-217 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 102
20A-7-304 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 293
20A-7-307 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448
20A-7-308 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448
20A-7-314 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 27
20A-7-315 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 102
20A-7-507 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448
20A-7-607 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 16
20A-7-703 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448
20A-7-703.1 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2026, Chapter 102
20A-7-704 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 217, 255
20A-7-705 (Effective 05/05/27), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 448

ENACTS:

20A-7-707 (Effective 05/05/27), Utah Code Annotated 1953
20A-7-708 (Effective 05/05/27), Utah Code Annotated 1953

REPEALS:

20A-7-706 (Effective 05/05/27), 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-6-107** is amended to read:

20A-6-107 (Effective 05/05/27). Numbering of ballot propositions and bond propositions -- Duties of election officer, lieutenant governor, and legislative general counsel.

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c), each ballot proposition shall

be listed on the ballot under the heading "Proposition #___", with the number of the ballot proposition placed in the blank.

(b) Each proposed amendment to the Utah Constitution shall be listed on the ballot under the heading "Constitutional Amendment ___", with a letter placed in the blank.

(c) Each bond proposition that has qualified for the ballot shall be listed on the ballot under the title assigned to each bond proposition under Section 11-14-206.

[~~(2)(a) When an election officer or other person given authority to prepare or number ballot propositions receives a ballot proposition that is eligible for inclusion on the ballot, they shall ask the lieutenant governor to assign a number to the ballot proposition.~~]

[~~(b)(i) Upon request from an election officer or other person given authority to prepare or number ballot propositions, the lieutenant governor shall assign each ballot proposition a unique number, except as provided under Subsection (2)(b)(iii).~~]

(2) When the Legislature submits a proposed constitutional amendment to the voters, the legislative general counsel shall, on or before the first business day in April of the year in which the proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the ballot:

(a) assign a letter to the proposed constitutional amendment; and

(b) notify the lieutenant governor and the presiding officer of the house of origin of the legislation proposing the constitutional amendment of the letter assigned.

(3) When the Legislature submits a measure other than a proposed constitutional amendment to the voters:

(a) the legislative general counsel shall, no later than three business days before the first business day in April of the year in which the proposed constitutional amendment will appear on the ballot, request that the lieutenant governor assign a proposition number to the measure; and

(b) the lieutenant governor shall, no later than three business days after the day on which the legislative general counsel makes the request described in Subsection (3)(a):

(i) in accordance of Subsection (6), assign a ballot proposition number to the measure; and

(ii) inform the legislative general counsel and the presiding officer of the house of origin of the measure, of the number assigned.

(4) When a referendum qualifies for the ballot:

(a) for a statewide referendum, the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (6), on the day on which the lieutenant governor declares the referendum

petition sufficient under Subsection 20A-7-307(3), assign a number to the ballot proposition and inform the legislative general counsel and one sponsor of the statewide referendum of the number assigned; or

(b) for a local referendum:

(i) the election officer or the individual responsible for preparing the ballot title shall, no later than five business days after the day on which the referendum qualifies for the ballot, request that the lieutenant governor assign a proposition number to the referendum; and

(ii) the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (6), no later than three business days after the day on which the person described in Subsection (4)(b)(i) makes the request, assign a number to the ballot proposition and inform the requesting individual of the number assigned.

(5) When a ballot proposition, other than a ballot proposition described in Subsections (2) through (4), qualifies for the ballot:

(a) except as provided in Subsection (5)(b):

(i) the election officer or other individual with authority to prepare or number ballot propositions shall, no later than 10 business days after the day on which the ballot proposition qualifies for the ballot, request that the lieutenant governor assign a number to the proposition; and

(ii) the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (6), no later than three business days after the day on which the individual described in Subsection (5)(a)(i) makes the request, assign a number to the ballot proposition and inform the requesting individual of the number assigned; or

(b) for a statewide initiative, the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (6), no later than three business days after the day on which the initiative qualifies for the ballot, assign a proposition number to the initiative and inform the legislative general counsel of the proposition number assigned.

[~~(ii)~~] (6)(a) [~~Ballot~~] Except as provided in Subsection (6)(b), the lieutenant governor shall assign proposition numbers[~~shall be assigned~~] sequentially, in the order requests for ballot proposition numbers are received.

[~~(iii)~~] (b) The lieutenant governor may assign the same ballot proposition number [~~may be assigned~~]to multiple ballot propositions if:

(i) the ballot proposition is not a referendum;

[~~(A)~~] (ii) the sponsors of each ballot proposition agree, in writing, to share the

number; and

[~~(B)~~] (iii) the ballot propositions sharing the same number are identical in their terms, purpose, and effect, with jurisdiction being the only significant difference between the ballot propositions.

Section 2. Section **20A-7-103** is amended to read:

20A-7-103 (Contingently Effective 05/05/27). Constitutional amendments and other questions submitted by the Legislature -- Publication -- Ballot title -- Procedures for submission to popular vote.

(1) The procedures contained in this section govern when the Legislature submits a proposed constitutional amendment or other question to the voters.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall:

(a) for a proposed constitutional amendment, in accordance with Utah Constitution, Article XXIII, Section 1, publish the entire text of the proposed constitutional amendment for 60 calendar days immediately preceding the next regular general election, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102; or

(b) for a question other than a proposed constitutional amendment, publish the question for 60 calendar days immediately preceding the next regular general election, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102.

(3)(a) The legislative general counsel shall:

(i) entitle each proposed constitutional amendment "Constitutional Amendment __" and assign a letter to the constitutional amendment in accordance with the requirements of Section 20A-6-107;

(ii) entitle each proposed question "Proposition Number __" with the number assigned to the proposition under Section 20A-6-107 placed in the blank;

(iii) draft and designate a ballot title for each proposed amendment or question submitted by the Legislature that:

(A) summarizes the subject matter of the amendment or question; and

(B) for a proposed constitutional amendment, [~~summarizes any legislation that~~] if legislation is enacted[~~ and~~] that will become effective upon the voters' adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment, summarizes the portion of the legislation that relates to the constitutional amendment; and

(iv) deliver each [~~letter or number and~~]ballot title to the lieutenant governor no later than the last business day that is at least 90 calendar days before the date of the election at which the measure will appear on the ballot.

(b) Consistent with Section 36-12-12, the legislative general counsel performs the duties in this section as counsel for the presiding officers.

(c) No later than three business days after the day on which the legislative general counsel complies with Subsection (3)(a)(iv), the lieutenant governor shall publish for the state, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least 10 calendar days:

(i) the ballot title described in Subsection (3)(a)(iv);

(ii) information stating that a voter may challenge the wording of the ballot title by filing an action in a court with jurisdiction; and

(iii) the deadline described in Subsection (4)(a) for filing the action.

(4)(a) A voter may, no later than nine calendar days after the first day on which the lieutenant governor publishes the notice described in Subsection (3)(c), file an action in a court with jurisdiction challenging the wording of the ballot title.

(b) There is a presumption that the ballot title prepared by the legislative general counsel is an accurate and impartial description of the applicable items described in Subsection (3)(a)(iii).

(c) The court may not revise the wording of the ballot title unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption described in Subsection (4)(b) by clearly and convincingly establishing that the ballot title is false or biased.

(d) The court shall:

(i) examine the ballot title;

(ii) consider the arguments of the parties; and

(iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this Subsection (4).

(e) The lieutenant governor shall certify the ballot title in accordance with the court's order and Subsection (5).

[~~(4)~~] (5) The lieutenant governor shall certify the letter or number and ballot title of each amendment or question to the county clerk of each county [~~no later than 65 calendar days before the date of the election~~] in accordance with Section 20A-5a-209.

[~~(5)~~] (6) The county clerk of each county shall:

(a) ensure that the letter or number and the ballot title of each amendment and question prepared in accordance with this section are included in the sample ballots and official ballots; and

(b) publish the sample ballots and official ballots as provided by law.

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

20A-7-105 (Effective 05/05/27) (Partially Repealed 01/01/27). 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, before signing a signature sheet, a signer is required to have an opportunity 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 individual signed a signature sheet in the packet.

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

(i) for a statewide initiative:

(A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the first individual signs the initiative packet;

(B) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on which the application for the initiative petition is filed; or

(C) the first business day that is on or after February 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202;

(ii) for a statewide referendum:

(A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the first individual signs the referendum packet; or

(B) the first business day that is at least 40 calendar days after the day on which the legislative session at which the law passed ends;

(iii) for a local initiative:

(A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the first individual signs the initiative packet;

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

(C) the April 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a county initiative; or

(D) the April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a municipal initiative; or

(iv) for a local referendum:

(A) the first business day that is at least 30 calendar days after the day on which the first individual signs the referendum packet; or

(B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the sponsors receive the items described in Subsection 20A-7-604(3) from the local clerk.

(b) A person may not mark, redact, or otherwise alter a signature sheet in a manner that obscures, conceals, or renders illegible a signer's date of signature or other information provided by the signer that is used for verification under this section.

(c) Before delivering an initiative packet to the county clerk under this Subsection (5), the sponsors shall send an email to each individual who provides a legible, valid

email address on the signature sheet that includes the following:

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

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

"You signed a petition for the following initiative:

[insert title of initiative]

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

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

(i) a list containing:

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

(B) the date the email was sent;

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

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

"Verification of initiative sponsor State of Utah, County of _____I, _____, of _____, hereby state, under penalty of perjury, that:

I am a sponsor of the initiative petition entitled _____; and

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

_____

(Printed Name) (Signature) (Residence Address)

(Date)."

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

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

(6)(a) [~~Within~~] No later than the first business day that is at least 21 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk receives the packet, the county clerk shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b)(i) For a statewide initiative or statewide referendum, the county clerk shall, no later than the first business day that is at least seven calendar days after the last day the county clerk makes the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B), certify the following information to the lieutenant governor:

(A) the total number of verified packets in the county clerk's possession;

(B) the total number of signatures verified by the county clerk;

(C) of the number described in Subsection (6)(b)(i)(B), the number of signatures the county clerk declared valid and invalid under Section 20A-1-1002; and

(D) a breakdown of the number of invalid signatures, categorized by the reason for the invalidity; and

(ii) After a county clerk sends the certification described in Subsection (6)(b)(i) to the lieutenant governor, the county clerk shall retain and preserve each verified packet in the manner described in Subsection 20A-4-202(2).

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

(i) for a local initiative, during the period of time described in Subsection

20A-7-507(3)(a); or

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

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

(i) on a packet that is not verified in accordance with Subsection (4)(a)(ii);

(ii) that does not have a date of signature next to the signature; or

(iii) except as provided in Subsection (7)(b), if the date of signature is later than the applicable deadline described in Subsection (5)(a).

(b) A county clerk may not refuse to certify a signature under Subsection (6)(a) or otherwise reject the packet solely because the date written next to the signature contains a one-calendar-year error if the date, adjusted by one calendar year, would fall within the period that:

(i) begins on the day on which the first individual signs the packet under Subsection (5)(a); and

(ii) ends on the day on which the packet is submitted.

(c) Certification of a signature described in Subsection (7)(b) does not change the date on which the first individual signs the packet for purposes of calculating a deadline under Subsection (5)(a).

(8) [~~Beginning on January 1, 2027, an~~] An election officer shall, within two business days after the day on which the county clerk determines the signer of an initiative is a legal voter eligible to sign a signature sheet, send the following email notice to the signer if the signer's voter registration record includes a valid email address:

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

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

"You signed a petition for the following initiative:

[insert title of initiative]

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

(9)(a) A voter who signs a statewide initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to

the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later than 5 p.m. the earlier of:

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

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

(B) the first business day that is at least 90 calendar days after the day on which the [~~lieutenant governor~~] county clerk posts the voter's [~~name~~] voter identification number under Subsection 20A-7-207(2); or

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

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

(B) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the [~~lieutenant governor~~] county clerk posts the voter's [~~name~~] voter identification number under Subsection 20A-7-207(2).

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

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

(ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the [~~lieutenant governor~~] county clerk posts the voter's [~~name~~] voter identification number under Subsection 20A-7-307(2).

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

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

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

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

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

(B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502.

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

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

(ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the local clerk posts the voter's [~~name~~] voter identification number under Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a).

(e) In order for the signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement described in this Subsection (9) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable deadline described in this Subsection (9).

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

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

(i) ensure that the voter's [~~name, ~~]voter identification number[~~,~~] and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) or (iii)(B); and

(ii) remove the voter's signature from the signature packets and signature packet totals.

(b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (10)(a) before the later of:

(i) the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a); or

(ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection (9).

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

(12) A person may not use an email address provided by the signer of an initiative petition

or a referendum petition for any purpose other than a purpose described in this chapter.

Section 4. Section **20A-7-202.5** is amended to read:

20A-7-202.5 (Effective 05/05/27). Initial fiscal impact statement -- Preparation of statement -- Challenge to statement.

(1) [~~Within~~] No later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives an initiative application, the lieutenant governor shall submit a copy of the initiative application to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

(2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall prepare an unbiased, good faith initial fiscal impact statement for the proposed law, not exceeding 100 words plus 100 words per revenue source created or impacted by the proposed law, that contains:

(i) a description of the total estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law over the time period or time periods determined by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to be most useful in understanding the estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law;

(ii) if the proposed law would increase taxes, decrease taxes, or impose a new tax, a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or decrease for each type of tax affected under the proposed law, a dollar amount showing the estimated amount of a new tax, and a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or decrease in taxes under the proposed law;

(iii) if the proposed law would increase a particular tax or tax rate, the tax percentage difference and the tax percentage increase for each tax or tax rate increased;

(iv) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from new revenues, a description of the amount and source of the new revenues;

(v) if the proposed law will be funded, in whole or in part, from existing revenues, a description of:

(A) the existing line items or programs that will receive less funding in order to fund the proposed law and the amount by which the funding will be reduced; and

(B) the likely impact of the reduction in funding described in Subsection (2)(a)(v)(A);

(vi) if the proposed law would result in the issuance or a change in the status of bonds, notes, or other debt instruments, a dollar amount representing the total estimated increase or decrease in public debt under the proposed law;

(vii) a dollar amount representing the estimated cost or savings, if any, to state or

local government entities under the proposed law;

(viii) if the proposed law would increase costs to state government, a listing of all sources of funding for the estimated costs; and

(ix) a concise description and analysis titled "Funding Source," not to exceed 100 words for each funding source, of the funding source information described in Subsection 20A-7-202(2)(f)(ii).

(b) If the proposed law is estimated to have fiscal impact of less than the amount specified by joint legislative rule for designating a bill as a fiscal note bill, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall prepare the initial fiscal impact statement to read substantially as follows:

"The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst estimates that the law proposed by this initiative would have no significant fiscal impact and would not result in either an increase or decrease in taxes or debt."

(3) [~~Within~~] No later than the first business day that is at least 25 calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor delivers a copy of the initiative application, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:

(a) send a copy of the initial fiscal impact statement to the lieutenant governor's office; and

(b) send a copy of the initial fiscal impact statement to the first five sponsors named in the initiative application.

(4)(a)(i) Three or more of the sponsors of the initiative petition may, within 20 calendar days after the day on which the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst [~~delivers the initial fiscal impact statement to the lieutenant governor's office~~] complies with Subsection (3), file a petition with the appropriate court, alleging that the initial fiscal impact statement, taken as a whole, is an inaccurate estimate of the fiscal impact of the initiative.

(ii) After receipt of the appeal, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to send notice of the petition filed with the court to:

(A) any person or group that has filed an argument with the lieutenant governor's office for or against the initiative that is the subject of the challenge; and

(B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the person designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the initiative.

(b)(i) There is a presumption that the initial fiscal impact statement prepared by the

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst is based upon reasonable assumptions, uses reasonable data, and applies accepted analytical methods to present the estimated fiscal impact of the initiative.

(ii) The court may not revise the contents of, or direct the revision of, the initial fiscal impact statement unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption described in Subsection (4)(b)(i) by clear and convincing evidence that establishes that the initial fiscal impact statement, taken as a whole, is an inaccurate statement of the estimated fiscal impact of the initiative.

(iii) The court may refer an issue related to the initial fiscal impact statement to a master to examine the issue and make a report in accordance with Utah Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 53.

(c) The court shall certify to the lieutenant governor a fiscal impact statement for the initiative that meets the requirements of this section.

Section 5. Section **20A-7-203** is amended to read:

20A-7-203 (Effective 05/05/27). Manual initiative process -- Form of initiative petition and signature sheets.

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

(2)(a) Each proposed initiative petition shall be printed in substantially the following form:

"INITIATIVE PETITION To the Honorable ____, Lieutenant Governor:

We, the undersigned citizens of Utah, respectfully demand that the proposed law described in this initiative petition be submitted to the legal voters/Legislature of Utah for their/its approval or rejection at the regular general election/session to be held/ beginning on _____(month\day\year);

Each signer says:

I have personally signed this initiative petition or, if I am an individual with a qualifying disability, I have signed this initiative petition by directing the signature gatherer to enter the initials "AV" as my signature;

The date next to my signature correctly reflects the date that I actually signed the initiative petition;

I personally had an opportunity to read the entire statement included with this initiative packet;

I am registered to vote in Utah; and

My residence and post office address are written correctly after my name.

WARNING TO SIGNERS WITH PRIVATE VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS

If you sign this petition, your voter identification number and the date you signed may be publicly disclosed. This disclosure may occur even if you are an at-risk voter with a voter registration record that has been classified as a private record.

NOTICE TO SIGNERS:

Public hearings to discuss this initiative were held at: (list dates and locations of public hearings).".

(b) The following statement shall appear, in at least 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a), if the initiative proposes a tax increase:

"This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent increase in the current tax rate."

(c) The following statement shall appear, in at least 14-point, bold type, immediately following the information described in Subsection (2)(a), if:

(i) the initiative proposes a law other than a tax increase; and

(ii) the initiative petition is part of a condensed initiative packet:

"This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50 words, that is understandable to the average reader)."[.]

(3) Each initiative signature sheet shall:

(a) be printed on sheets of paper 8.5 inches long and 11 inches wide;

(b) be ruled with a horizontal line .75 inches from the top, with the space above that line blank for the purpose of binding;

(c) include the title of the initiative printed below the horizontal line, in at least 14-point, bold type;

(d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet:

(i) contain a printed QR code at the top of the signature sheet, in a location above the columns described in Subsection (3)(e);

(ii) ensure that the QR code links directly to the web page on the lieutenant governor's website described in Section 20A-7-202.7; and

(iii) include the following statement adjacent to the QR code in not less than 8-point, bold type: "This QR code provides access to a website that includes the full text of the law proposed by this initiative petition.";

(e) be vertically divided into columns immediately below the title of the initiative, as follows:

(i) the first column shall begin .5 inch from the left side of the paper, be .25 inch wide, and be headed, together with the second column, "For Office Use Only";

(ii) the second column shall be .25 inch wide;

(iii) the third column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Registered Voter's Printed Name (must be legible to be counted)";

(iv) the fourth column shall be 2.5 inches wide, headed "Signature of Registered Voter";

(v) the fifth column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Date Signed";

(vi) the sixth column shall be three inches wide, headed "Street Address, City, Zip Code"; and

(vii) the seventh column shall be .75 inch wide, headed "Birth Date or Age (Optional)"; and

(f) be horizontally divided into rows as follows:

(i) the first row shall be .5 inch high for purposes of a registered voter's entry of the information described in Subsection (3)(e); and

(ii) the second row shall span the width of each column described in Subsection (3)(e) and contain the following statement in 12-point type: "By signing this initiative petition, you are stating that you had an opportunity to read and understand the law proposed by this initiative petition."[.]

(4) The columns and rows described in Subsections (3)(e) and (f) shall be repeated, leaving sufficient room at the bottom of the sheet for the information described in Subsection (5).

(5) The bottom of the signature sheet shall include, in the following order:

(a) the words "Fiscal Impact of" followed by the title of the initiative, in at least 12-point, bold type;

(b) except as provided in Subsection (6), the initial fiscal impact statement issued by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-202.5(2)(a), including any update in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5), in not less than 12-point type;

(c) if the initiative proposes a tax increase, the following statement in 12-point, bold type: "This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent increase in the current tax rate.";

(d) if the signature sheet is part of a condensed initiative packet, the following statement in 12-point, bold type:

"This initiative seeks to (the sponsors shall provide a brief, plain-language description of the principal provisions of the proposed law, not to exceed 50 words, that is understandable to the average reader)."; and

(e) the word "Warning," in 12-point, bold type, followed by the following statement in not less than eight-point type:

"It is a class A misdemeanor to sign an initiative petition using a name other than your own name, to sign more than once, or to sign if you are not a registered voter. Providing your birth date or age is optional, but it may be used to verify your identity. If you do not provide it, your signature may not be validated if your address changes or if the information you provide does not match your voter registration record."

(6) The final page of each initiative packet shall contain the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1).

(7) If the initial fiscal impact statement described in Subsection (5)(b), as updated in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5), exceeds 200 words, the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall prepare and provide to the lieutenant governor and the first five sponsors in the initiative application a shorter summary statement that does not exceed 200 words, for the purpose of inclusion on an initiative signature sheet, [~~that does not exceed 200 words.~~] no later than the later of:

(a) three business days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(a); or

(b) if the sponsors update the text of the initiative under Section 20A-7-204, the day on which the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst complies with Subsection 20A-7-204.1(5)(b)(ii).

(8) If the forms described in this section are substantially followed, the initiative petitions are sufficient, notwithstanding clerical and merely technical errors.

Section 6. Section **20A-7-204.1** is amended to read:

20A-7-204.1 (Effective 05/05/27). Public hearings to be held before initiative petitions are circulated -- Changes to a proposed law or an initial fiscal impact statement.

(1)(a) After issuance of the initial fiscal impact statement by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and before circulating initiative packets for signature statewide, sponsors of the initiative shall hold at least seven public hearings throughout Utah as follows:

(i) one in the Bear River region -- Box Elder, Cache, or Rich County;

(ii) one in the Southwest region -- Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, or Washington

County;

(iii) one in the Mountain region -- Summit, Utah, or Wasatch County;

(iv) one in the Central region -- Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, or Wayne County;

(v) one in the Southeast region -- Carbon, Emery, Grand, or San Juan County;

(vi) one in the Uintah Basin region -- Daggett, Duchesne, or Uintah County; and

(vii) one in the Wasatch Front region -- Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, or Weber County.

(b) Of the seven public hearings, the sponsors of the initiative shall hold at least two of the public hearings in a first or second class county, but not in the same county.

(c) The sponsors may not hold a public hearing described in this section until the later of:

(i) the day after the day on which a sponsor receives a copy of the initial fiscal impact statement under Subsection 20A-7-202.5(3)(b); or

(ii) if three or more sponsors file a petition for an action challenging the accuracy of the initial fiscal impact statement under Section 20A-7-202.5, the day after the day on which the action is final.

(2)(a) The sponsors shall, before 5 p.m. at least 10 calendar days before the date of the public hearing, provide written notice of the public hearing, including the date, time, and location of the public hearing:

(i) to the lieutenant governor;

(ii) to the county clerk of each county in the region where the public hearing will be held;

(iii) each state senator, state representative, and county commission or county council member who is elected in whole or in part from the region where the public hearing will be held; and

(iv) in accordance with Section 45-1-101, for at least three calendar days before the day of the public hearing.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall post the notice described in Subsection (2)(a) on the lieutenant governor's website for at least three calendar days before the day of the public hearing.

(c) The county clerk of each county in the region where the public hearing will be held:

(i) shall post the notice described in Subsection (2)(a) for the county, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least three calendar days before the day of the public hearing; and

(ii) may bill the sponsors of the initiative for the cost of preparing, printing, and posting the notice described in Subsection (2)(c)(i).

(3) If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the written notice described in Subsection (2) shall include the following statement, in bold, in the same font and point size as the largest font and point size appearing in the notice:

"This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent increase in the current tax rate."

(4)(a) During the public hearing, the sponsors shall either:

(i) video tape or audio tape the public hearing; or

(ii) take comprehensive minutes of the public hearing, detailing the names and titles of each speaker and summarizing each speaker's comments.

(b) The lieutenant governor shall make copies of the tapes or minutes available to the public.

(c) For each public hearing, the sponsors shall:

(i) during the entire time that the public hearing is held, post a copy of the initial fiscal impact statement in a conspicuous location at the entrance to the room where the sponsors hold the public hearing; and

(ii) place at least 50 copies of the initial fiscal impact statement, for distribution to public hearing attendees, in a conspicuous location at the entrance to the room where the sponsors hold the public hearing.

(d) Regardless of whether an individual is present to observe or speak at a public hearing:

(i) the sponsors may not end the public hearing until at least one hour after the public hearing begins; and

(ii) the sponsors shall provide at least one hour at the public hearing that is open for public comment.

(5)(a) [~~Before~~] The sponsors of an initiative may, no later than 5 p.m. [~~within~~] on the first business day that is at least 14 calendar days after the day on which the sponsors conduct the seventh public hearing described in Subsection (1)(a), and before circulating an initiative signature packet for signatures, [~~the sponsors of the initiative may~~] file with the lieutenant governor an application addendum to change the text of the proposed law if:

(i) a change to the text is:

(A) germane to the text of the proposed law filed with the lieutenant governor

under Section 20A-7-202; and

(B) consistent with the requirements of Subsection 20A-7-202(5);[~~ and~~]

(ii) each sponsor signs[~~, attested to by a notary public, an~~] the application addendum[~~ to change the text of the proposed law.~~] ; and

(iii) the signatures described in Subsection (5)(a)(ii) are attested by a notary public.

(b)(i) [~~Within~~] No later than 5 p.m. three business days after the day on which the lieutenant governor receives an application addendum to change the text of the proposed law for an initiative that complies with the requirements of Subsection (5)(a), the lieutenant governor shall submit a copy of the application addendum to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

(ii) The Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall, no later than the first business day that is at least 14 calendar days after the day on which the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst receives the application addendum:

(A) update the initial fiscal impact statement[~~, by following the procedures and requirements of Section 20A-7-202.5~~] to reflect a change to the text of the proposed law and send the updated statement to the lieutenant governor and the first five sponsors named in the initiative application; or

(B) provide written notice to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and to the first five sponsors named in the initiative application, indicating that no changes to the initial fiscal impact statement are necessary.

(c)(i) Three or more of the sponsors of the initiative petition may, within 20 calendar days after the day on which the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst delivers an updated initial fiscal impact statement under Subsection (5)(b)(ii)(A), file a petition in a court with jurisdiction, alleging that the initial fiscal impact statement, taken as a whole, is an inaccurate estimate of the fiscal impact of the initiative, as amended by the application addendum.

(ii) The provisions of Subsection 20A-7-202.5 (4) apply to an appeal filed under Subsection (5)(c)(i).

Section 7. Section **20A-7-207** is amended to read:

20A-7-207 (Effective 05/05/27). Evaluation by the lieutenant governor.

(1) In relation to the manual initiative process, when the lieutenant governor receives an initiative packet from a county clerk, the lieutenant governor shall record the number of the initiative packet received.

(2) The county clerk shall:

(a) in relation to the manual initiative process, in accordance with Section 20A-7-105:

(i) post the [~~names, ~~]voter identification numbers[~~,~~] and dates of signatures described in Subsection [~~20A-7-105(6)(a)(iii)~~] 20A-7-105(6)(a)(ii)(B) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor:

(A) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk before December 1, for at least 90 calendar days; or

(B) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk on or after December 1, for at least 45 calendar days; and

(ii) update on the lieutenant governor's website the number of signatures certified as of the date of the update; or

(b) in relation to the electronic initiative process, in accordance with Section 20A-7-217:

(i) post the [~~names, ~~]voter identification numbers[~~,~~] and dates of signatures described in Subsection 20A-7-217(4) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor:

(A) for a signature received by the county clerk before December 1, for at least 90 calendar days; or

(B) for a signature received by the county clerk on or after December 1, for at least 45 calendar days; and

(ii) update on the lieutenant governor's website the number of signatures certified as of the date of the update.

(3) The lieutenant governor:

(a) shall, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), declare the initiative petition to be sufficient or insufficient on the first business day that is on or after April 30 [~~before~~] in the year of the next regular general election described in Subsection 20A-7-201(2)(b); or

(b) may declare the initiative petition to be insufficient before the day described in Subsection (3)(a) if:

(i) in relation to the manual initiative process, the total of all valid signatures on timely and lawfully submitted initiative packets that have been certified by the county clerks, plus the number of signatures on timely and lawfully submitted initiative packets that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-201;

(ii) in relation to the electronic initiative process, the total of all timely and lawfully

submitted valid signatures that have been certified by the county clerks, plus the number of timely and lawfully submitted valid signatures received under Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(b) that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-201; or

(iii) a requirement of this part has not been met.

(4)(a) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) equals or exceeds the number of names required under Section 20A-7-201, and the requirements of this part are met, the lieutenant governor shall mark upon the front of the initiative petition the word "sufficient."

(b) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) does not equal or exceed the number of names required under Section 20A-7-201 or a requirement of this part is not met, the lieutenant governor shall mark upon the front of the initiative petition the word "insufficient."

(c) The lieutenant governor shall[~~immediately~~] , on the day on which the lieutenant governor takes the action described in Subsection (4)(a) or (b), notify the legislative general counsel and any one of the sponsors of the lieutenant governor's finding.

(5) After an initiative petition is declared insufficient, a person may not submit additional signatures to qualify the initiative for the ballot.

(6)(a) If the lieutenant governor refuses to declare an initiative petition sufficient that a voter believes is legally sufficient, the voter may, no later than May 15, apply to the appropriate court for an order finding the initiative petition legally sufficient.

(b) If the court determines that the initiative petition is legally sufficient, the lieutenant governor shall mark the petition "sufficient" and consider the declaration of sufficiency effective as of the date on which the initiative petition should have been declared sufficient by the lieutenant governor's office.

(c) If the court determines that the initiative petition is not legally sufficient, the court may enjoin the lieutenant governor and all other officers from certifying or printing the ballot title and numbers of that measure on the official ballot.

(7) An initiative petition determined to be sufficient in accordance with this section is qualified for the ballot.

Section 8. Section **20A-7-209** is amended to read:

20A-7-209 (Effective 05/05/27). Ballot title -- Duties of lieutenant governor and legislative general counsel.

(1) [~~On~~] No later than 5 p.m. on the last business day that is on or before June 5 before the

regular general election, the lieutenant governor shall deliver a copy of all of the proposed laws that have qualified for the ballot to[~~the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel~~] :

(a) the legislative general counsel; and

(b) the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

(2)(a) The [~~Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel~~] legislative general counsel shall:

(i) entitle each statewide initiative that has qualified for the ballot "Proposition Number __," [~~and give it a~~] with the number [~~as~~]assigned under Section 20A-6-107;

(ii) prepare for each statewide initiative[~~:~~] a ballot title, not exceeding 150 words, that comprises a short title followed by an impartial summary of the contents of the initiative; and

[~~(A) an impartial short title, not exceeding 25 words, that generally describes the subject of the initiative; and~~]

[~~(B) an impartial summary of the contents of the initiative, not exceeding 125 words; and~~]

(iii) provide [~~each short title, and summary~~] the ballot title to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day that is on or before June 26 of the year in which the initiative will appear on the ballot.

(b) The [~~short title and summary~~] ballot title, including the short title, may be distinct from the title of the proposed law.

(c) If the initiative proposes a tax increase, the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall include the following statement, in bold, in the summary:

"This initiative seeks to increase the current (insert name of tax) rate by (insert the tax percentage difference) percent, resulting in a(n) (insert the tax percentage increase) percent increase in the current tax rate.".

(d) Subject to Subsection (4), for each statewide initiative, the official ballot shall show, in the following order:

(i) the number of the initiative, determined in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

[~~(ii) the short title;~~]

[~~(iii)~~] (ii) except as provided in Subsection (2)(e):

(A) the [~~summary~~] ballot title;

(B) the text of the proposed law; and

(C) a link to a location on the lieutenant governor's website where a voter may review additional information relating to each initiative, including the information described in Subsection 20A-7-202(2), the initial fiscal impact statement described in Section 20A-7-202.5, as updated under Section 20A-7-204.1, and the arguments relating to the initiative that are included in the voter information pamphlet; and

[~~(iv)~~] (iii) the initial fiscal impact statement prepared under Section 20A-7-202.5, as updated under Section 20A-7-204.1.

(e) Unless the information described in Subsection [~~(2)(d)(iii)~~] (2)(d)(ii) is shown on the official ballot, the election officer shall include with the ballot a separate ballot proposition insert that includes the [~~short~~] ballot title[~~ and summary~~] for each initiative on the ballot and a link to a location on the lieutenant governor's website where a voter may review the additional information described in Subsection [~~(2)(d)(iii)(C)~~] (2)(d)(ii)(C).

(f) Unless the information described in Subsection [~~(2)(d)(iii)~~] (2)(d)(ii) for all initiatives on the ballot, and the information described in Subsection [~~20A-7-308(2)(c)(iii)~~] 20A-7-308(2)(c)(ii) for all referenda on the ballot, is printed on the ballot, the ballot shall include the following statement at the beginning of the portion of the ballot that includes ballot measures, "The ballot proposition sheet included with this ballot contains an impartial summary of each initiative and referendum on this ballot, unless the [~~summary~~] ballot title is printed directly on the ballot."

(3) [~~On or before June 27~~] No later than one business day after the day on which the legislative general counsel provides the ballot title to the lieutenant governor under Subsection (2)(a)(iii), the lieutenant governor shall send a copy of the [~~short title and summary~~] ballot title to any sponsor of the petition.

(4)(a)(i) At least three of the sponsors of the petition may, [~~on or before July 6~~] no later than nine calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor complies with Subsection (3), challenge the wording of the [~~short title and summary~~] ballot title prepared by the [~~Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to the appropriate~~] legislative general counsel in a court with jurisdiction.

(ii) After receipt of the challenge, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to send notice of the challenge to:

(A) any person or group that has filed an argument for or against the initiative that is the subject of the challenge; or

(B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the individual designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the initiative.

(b)(i) There is a presumption that the [~~short~~] ballot title prepared by the [~~Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel~~] legislative general counsel is an impartial [~~description~~] summary of the contents of the initiative.

(ii) The court may not revise the wording of the [~~short~~] ballot title unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption described in Subsection (4)(b)(i) by clearly and convincingly establishing that the [~~short~~] ballot title is false or biased.

[~~(iii) There is a presumption that the summary prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel is an impartial summary of the contents of the initiative.~~]

[~~(iv) The court may not revise the wording of the summary unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the summary is false or biased.~~]

(c) The court shall:

(i) examine the [~~short~~] ballot title[~~ and summary~~];

(ii) [~~hear~~] consider the arguments of the parties; and

(iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this section.

(d) The lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with the court's order, certify the [~~short~~] ballot title [~~and summary~~]to the county clerks for inclusion in the ballot or ballot proposition insert, as required by this section.

Section 9. Section **20A-7-216** is amended to read:

20A-7-216 (Effective 05/05/27). Electronic initiative process -- Obtaining signatures -- Request to remove signature.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk posts the voter's [~~name~~] voter identification number under Subsection 20A-7-217(4).

(5)(a)[~~(i)~~] A voter may not submit a signature removal statement described in Subsection (4) by mail using prepaid postage, email, or other electronic means.

[~~(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (5)(a)(i), a county clerk may accept a signature removal statement submitted by mail using prepaid postage if the statement is postmarked on or before the effective date of this bill.~~]

(b) A person may only remove an electronic signature from an initiative petition in accordance with this section.

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

Section 10. Section **20A-7-217** is amended to read:

20A-7-217 (Effective 05/05/27). Electronic initiative process -- Collecting signatures -- Email notification -- Removal of signatures.

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

(2) A signature-gatherer may not collect a signature after 5 p.m., the earlier of:

(a) the last business day that is no more than 316 calendar days after the day on which the initiative application [~~-~~]is filed; or

(b) the first business day that is on or after February 15 immediately before the next

regular general election immediately after the initiative application is filed under Section 20A-7-202.

(3) The lieutenant governor shall, no later than two business days after the day on which an individual signs an initiative using the electronic signature process, send to each individual who provides a valid email address [~~during the signature-gathering process an email~~] with the individual's signature, an email that includes the following:

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

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

"You signed a petition for the following initiative:

[insert title of initiative]

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

(4) Except as provided in Subsection (5), the county clerk shall, within two business days after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs an initiative petition is certified under Section 20A-21-201, in accordance with Subsection 20A-7-207(2)(b), post the voter identification number and the date of signature of the individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor.

(5)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection 20A-7-216(4), the county clerk shall:

(i) ensure that the voter's [~~name, ~~]voter identification number[~~,~~] and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection (4); and

(ii) remove the voter's signature from the initiative petition and the initiative petition signature totals.

(b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (5)(a) on or before the later of:

(i) the deadline described in Subsection (4); or

(ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection 20A-7-216(4).

Section 11. Section **20A-7-304** is amended to read:

20A-7-304 (Effective 05/05/27). Manual referendum process -- Circulation

requirements -- Lieutenant governor to provide sponsors with materials.

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

(2)(a) In order to obtain the necessary number of signatures required by this part, the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, after the sponsors receive the documents described in Subsection (3), circulate referendum packets that meet the form requirements of this part.

(b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may circulate referendum packets using traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets, or both.

(3) The lieutenant governor shall provide the sponsors with a copy of the referendum petition and a signature sheet no later than the first business day that is at least five calendar days after the day on which the sponsors sign an agreement[~~, under Subsection (6)(a), with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor specifying the range of numbers that the sponsors will use to number the referendum packets~~] described in Subsection (6)(a)(iii).

(4) The sponsors of the referendum petition shall:

(a) arrange and pay for the printing of all documents that are part of the referendum packets; and

(b) ensure that the referendum packets and the documents described in Subsection (4)(a) meet the form requirements of this section.

(5)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may prepare the referendum packets for circulation by creating multiple referendum packets.

(b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall create referendum packets by:

(i) binding the components of each referendum packet together at the top in a manner that secures all components of the referendum packet together;

(ii) arranging the components in the following order:

(A) a copy of the referendum petition;

(B) if the referendum packet is a traditional referendum packet, a copy of the law that is the subject of the referendum petition;

(C) the signature sheets; and

(D) the circulator verification sheet described in Subsection 20A-1-1004(1);

(iii) including no more than 50 signature sheets in each referendum packet; and

(iv) binding the referendum packet in a manner that allows the referendum packet to be conveniently opened for signing.

(c) A referendum packet is not required to have a uniform number of signature sheets.

(6)(a) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors shall, before gathering signatures:

(i) ensure that the sponsors or any agent of the sponsors who gathers signatures have completed the online training course described in Section 20A-1-1005;

(ii) contact the lieutenant governor's office to receive a range of numbers that the sponsors may use to number referendum packets;

(iii) sign an agreement with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, specifying:

(A) whether the sponsors or an agent of the sponsors will circulate referendum packets using traditional referendum packets, condensed referendum packets, or both; and

(B) the range of numbers that the sponsor will use to number the referendum packets; and

(iv) number each referendum packet, sequentially, within the range of numbers provided by the lieutenant governor's office, starting with the lowest number in the range.

(b) The sponsors or an agent of the sponsors may not:

(i) number a referendum packet in a manner not directed by the lieutenant governor's office; or

(ii) circulate or submit a referendum packet that is not numbered in the manner directed by the lieutenant governor's office.

Section 12. Section **20A-7-307** is amended to read:

20A-7-307 (Effective 05/05/27). Evaluation by the lieutenant governor.

(1) In relation to the manual referendum process, when the lieutenant governor receives a referendum packet from a county clerk, the lieutenant governor shall record the number of the referendum packet received.

(2) The county clerk shall:

(a) in relation to the manual referendum process:

(i) no later than the first business day that is at least 21 calendar days after the day on which the county clerk receives a referendum packet, post the [~~names, ~~] voters' voter identification numbers[,] and dates of signatures [~~described in Subsection 20A-7-105(6)(a)(iii) ~~]on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 45 calendar days; and

(ii) update on the lieutenant governor's website the number of signatures certified as of the date of the update; or

(b) in relation to the electronic referendum process:

(i) no later than two business days after the day on which a voter signs the referendum, post the [~~names, ~~] voter's voter identification [~~numbers, and dates of signatures described in Subsection 20A-7-315(4)~~] number and date of signature on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 45 calendar days; and

(ii) update on the lieutenant governor's website the number of signatures certified as of the date of the update.

(3) The lieutenant governor:

(a) shall, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), declare the referendum petition to be sufficient or insufficient [~~106~~] on the first business day that is at least 112 calendar days after the end of the legislative session at which the law passed; or

(b) may declare the referendum petition to be insufficient before the day described in Subsection (3)(a) if:

(i) in relation to the manual referendum process, the total of all valid signatures on timely and lawfully submitted referendum packets that have been certified by the county clerks, plus the number of signatures on timely and lawfully submitted referendum packets that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-301;

(ii) in relation to the electronic referendum process, the total of all timely and lawfully submitted valid signatures that have been certified by the county clerks, plus the number of timely and lawfully submitted valid signatures received under Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(b) that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-301; or

(iii) a requirement of this part has not been met.

(4)(a) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) equals or exceeds the number of names required under Section 20A-7-301, and the requirements of this part are met, the lieutenant governor shall[~~.~~] :

(i) mark upon the front of the referendum petition the word "sufficient[~~.~~]"; and

(ii) assign a ballot proposition number to the referendum in accordance with Subsections 20A-6-107(4) and (6) and inform the legislative general counsel, the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and any one of the sponsors of the number assigned.

(b) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) does not equal or exceed the number of names required under Section 20A-7-301 or a requirement of this part

is not met, the lieutenant governor shall mark upon the front of the referendum petition the word "insufficient."

(c) The lieutenant governor shall[~~immediately~~] , on the day on which the lieutenant governor takes the action described in Subsection (4)(a) or (b), notify the legislative general counsel, the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and any one of the sponsors of the lieutenant governor's finding.

(d) After a referendum petition is declared insufficient, a person may not submit additional signatures to qualify the referendum for the ballot.

(5)(a) If the lieutenant governor refuses to declare a referendum petition sufficient that a voter believes is legally sufficient, the voter may, no later than 10 calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor declares the petition insufficient, apply to [~~the appropriate~~] a court with jurisdiction for an order finding the referendum petition legally sufficient.

(b) If the court determines that the referendum petition is legally sufficient, the lieutenant governor shall[~~.~~] , no later than one business day after the day on which the court issues the order:

(i) mark the referendum petition "sufficient" and consider the declaration of sufficiency effective as of the date on which the referendum petition should have been declared sufficient by the lieutenant governor's office[~~.~~] ; and

(ii) assign a ballot proposition number to the referendum in accordance with Subsection 20A-6-107(6) and inform the legislative general counsel, the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and any one of the sponsors of the number assigned.

(c) If the court determines that a referendum petition filed is not legally sufficient, the court may enjoin the lieutenant governor and all other officers from certifying or printing the ballot title and numbers of that measure on the official ballot.

(6) A referendum petition determined to be sufficient in accordance with this section is qualified for the ballot.

Section 13. Section **20A-7-308** is amended to read:

20A-7-308 (Effective 05/05/27). Ballot title -- Duties of lieutenant governor and Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

(1) [~~Whenever~~] No later than 5 p.m. one business day after the day on which a referendum petition is declared sufficient for submission to a vote of the people, the lieutenant governor shall deliver a copy of the referendum petition and the law to which the

referendum relates to the [~~Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel~~] legislative general counsel and the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

(2)(a) The [~~Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel~~] legislative general counsel shall:

(i) entitle each statewide referendum that qualifies for the ballot "Proposition Number __," [~~and assign a~~] with the number [~~to the referendum in accordance with~~] assigned under Section 20A-6-107;

(ii) prepare for each statewide referendum[~~:~~] a ballot title, not exceeding 150 words, that comprises a short title followed by an impartial summary of the contents of the law to which the referendum relates; and

(iii) provide the ballot title to the lieutenant governor no later than the last business day that is at least 90 calendar days before the date of the election at which the referendum will appear on the ballot.

[~~(A) an impartial short title, not exceeding 25 words, that generally describes the law to which the referendum relates; and~~]

[~~(B) an impartial summary of the contents of the law to which the referendum relates, not exceeding 125 words; and~~]

[~~(iii) submit the short title and summary to the lieutenant governor within 15 calendar days after the day on which the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel receives the petition under Subsection (1).~~]

(b) The [~~short title and summary~~] ballot title, including the short title, may be distinct from the title of the law that is the subject of the referendum.

(c) Subject to Subjection (4), for each statewide referendum, the official ballot shall show, in the following order:

(i) the number of the referendum, determined in accordance with Section 20A-6-107;

[~~(ii) the short title; and~~]

[~~(iii)~~] (ii) except as provided in Subsection (2)(d):

(A) the [~~summary~~] ballot title;

(B) a copy of the law; and

(C) a link to a location on the lieutenant governor's website where a voter may review additional information relating to each referendum, including the information described in Subsection 20A-7-302(2) and the arguments relating to the referendum that are included in the voter information pamphlet.

(d) Unless the information described in Subsection [~~(2)(c)(iii)~~] (2)(c)(ii) is shown on the official ballot, the election officer shall include with the ballot a separate ballot proposition insert that includes the [~~short~~] ballot title[~~ and summary~~] for each referendum on the ballot and a link to a location on the lieutenant governor's website where a voter may review the additional information described in Subsection [~~(2)(c)(iii)(C)~~] (2)(c)(ii)(C).

(e) Unless the information described in Subsection [~~20A-7-209(2)(d)(iii)~~] 20A-7-209(2)(d)(ii) for all initiatives on the ballot, and the information described in Subsection [~~(2)(c)(iii)~~] (2)(c)(ii) for all referenda on the ballot, is printed on the ballot, the ballot shall include the following statement at the beginning of the portion of the ballot that includes ballot measures, "The ballot proposition sheet included with this ballot contains an impartial summary (ballot title) of each initiative and referendum on this ballot, unless the [~~summary~~] ballot title is printed directly on the ballot."

(3) [~~Immediately after the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel~~] No later than one business day after the day on which the legislative general counsel submits the [~~short~~] ballot title[~~ and summary~~] to the lieutenant governor, the lieutenant governor shall mail or email a copy of the [~~short~~] ballot title[~~ and summary~~] to any of the sponsors of the referendum petition.

(4)(a)(i) At least three of the sponsors of the referendum petition may, within [~~15~~] 10 calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor sends the [~~short~~] ballot title[~~ and summary~~], challenge the wording of the [~~short~~] ballot title [~~and summary~~] prepared by the [~~Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel to the appropriate~~] legislative general counsel to a court with jurisdiction.

(ii) After receipt of the appeal, the court shall direct the lieutenant governor to send notice of the appeal to:

(A) any person or group that has filed an argument for or against the law to which the referendum relates; and

(B) any political issues committee established under Section 20A-11-801 that has filed written or electronic notice with the lieutenant governor that identifies the name, mailing or email address, and telephone number of the person designated to receive notice about any issues relating to the referendum.

(b)(i) There is a presumption that the [~~short~~] ballot title prepared by the [~~Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel~~] legislative general counsel is an impartial [~~description~~] and accurate summary of the contents of the referendum.

(ii) The court may not revise the wording of the [~~short~~] ballot title unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption described in Subsection (4)(b)(i) by clearly and convincingly establishing that the [~~short~~] ballot title is false or biased.

[~~(iii) There is a presumption that the summary prepared by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel is an impartial summary of the contents of the law to which the referendum relates.~~]

[~~(iv) The court may not revise the wording of the summary unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption by clearly and convincingly establishing that the summary is false or biased.~~]

(c) The court shall:

(i) examine the [~~short~~] ballot title[~~ and summary~~];

(ii) [~~hear~~] consider the arguments of the parties; and

(iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this section.

(d) The lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with the court's order, certify the [~~short~~] ballot title [~~and summary~~]to the county clerks for inclusion in the ballot or ballot proposition insert, as required by this section.

Section 14. Section **20A-7-314** is amended to read:

20A-7-314 (Effective 05/05/27). Electronic referendum process -- Obtaining signatures -- Request to remove signature.

(1) This section applies to the electronic referendum process.

(2) A Utah voter may sign a referendum petition if the voter is a legal voter.

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

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

(b) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand the law that is the subject of the referendum petition.

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

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

(b) the first business day that is at least 45 calendar days after the day on which the [

~~lieutenant governor~~] county clerk posts the voter's [~~name~~] voter identification number under Subsection 20A-7-315(4).

(5)(a)[~~(i)~~] A voter may not submit a signature removal statement described in Subsection (4) by mail using prepaid postage, email, or other electronic means.

[~~(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (5)(a)(i), a county clerk may accept a signature removal statement submitted by mail using prepaid postage if the statement is postmarked on or before the effective date of this bill.~~]

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

(c) In order for a signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement described in Subsection (4) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable deadline described in Subsection (4).

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

Section 15. Section **20A-7-315** is amended to read:

20A-7-315 (Effective 05/05/27). Electronic referendum process -- Collecting signatures -- Removal of signatures.

(1) This section applies only to the electronic referendum process.

(2) A signature-gatherer may not collect a signature after 5 p.m., 40 calendar days after the day on which the legislative session at which the law passed ends.

(3) The lieutenant governor shall[~~- send to each individual who provides a valid email address during the signature-gathering process~~] , no later than two business days after the day on which an individual signs an affidavit and provides a valid email address with the individual's signature, send an email to the individual that includes the following:

(a) within the subject of the email[~~- shall include~~] , the following statement, "Notice Regarding Your Petition Signature"; and

(b) within the body of the email[~~- shall include~~] , the following statement in 12-point type:

"You signed a petition for the following referendum:

[insert title of referendum]

To access a copy of the referendum petition, the law that is the subject of the referendum petition, and information on the deadline for removing your signature from the referendum petition, please visit the following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page on the lieutenant governor's website that includes the

information referred to in the email]."

(4) Except as provided in Subsection (5), the county clerk shall, [~~within~~] no later than two business days after the day on which the signature of an individual who signs a referendum petition is certified under Section 20A-21-201, post the voter identification number and the date of signature of the individual on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor.

(5)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection 20A-7-314(4), the county clerk shall:

(i) ensure that the voter's [~~name, ~~]voter identification number[~~,~~] and date of signature are not included in the posting described in Subsection (4); and

(ii) remove the voter's signature from the referendum petition and the signature totals.

(b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (5)(a) before the later of:

(i) the deadline described in Subsection (4); or

(ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement requesting signature removal under Subsection 20A-7-314(4).

Section 16. Section **20A-7-507** is amended to read:

20A-7-507 (Effective 05/05/27). Evaluation by the local clerk.

(1) In relation to the manual initiative process, when a local clerk receives an initiative packet from a county clerk, the local clerk shall record the number of the initiative packet received.

(2) The county clerk shall:

(a) in relation to the manual initiative process:

(i) post the [~~names, ~~]voter identification numbers[~~,~~] and dates of signatures described in Subsection 20A-7-105(6)(a)(iii) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days; and

(ii) update on the local government's website the number of signatures certified as of the date of the update; or

(b) in relation to the electronic initiative process:

(i) post the names, voter identification numbers, and dates of signatures described in Subsection 20A-7-516(4) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 90 calendar days; and

(ii) update on the local government's website the number of signatures certified as of the date of the update.

(3) The local clerk:

(a) shall, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), declare the initiative petition to be sufficient or insufficient:

(i) in relation to the manual initiative process, no later than 21 calendar days after the day of the applicable deadline described in Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(a)(iii); or

(ii) in relation to the electronic initiative process, no later than 21 calendar days after the day of the applicable deadline described in Subsection 20A-7-516(2); or

(b) may declare the initiative petition to be insufficient before the day described in Subsection (3)(a) if:

(i) in relation to the manual initiative process, the total of all valid signatures on timely and lawfully submitted initiative packets that have been certified by the county clerks, plus the number of signatures on timely and lawfully submitted initiative packets that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-501;

(ii) in relation to the electronic initiative process, the total of all timely and lawfully submitted valid signatures that have been certified by the county clerks, plus the number of timely and lawfully submitted valid signatures received under Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(b) that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-501; or

(iii) a requirement of this part has not been met.

(4)(a) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) equals or exceeds the number of names required by Section 20A-7-501 and the requirements of this part are met, the local clerk shall mark upon the front of the initiative petition the word "sufficient."

(b) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) does not equal or exceed the number of names required by Section 20A-7-501 or a requirement of this part is not met, the local clerk shall mark upon the front of the initiative petition the word "insufficient."

(c) The local clerk shall immediately notify any one of the sponsors of the local clerk's finding.

(d) After an initiative petition is declared insufficient, a person may not submit additional signatures to qualify the initiative for the ballot.

(5) If the local clerk finds the total number of certified signatures for the initiative petition to be insufficient, any sponsor may file a written demand with the local clerk for a

recount of the signatures collected for the initiative petition in the presence of any sponsor.

(6) An initiative petition determined to be sufficient in accordance with this section is qualified for the ballot.

Section 17. Section **20A-7-607** is amended to read:

20A-7-607 (Effective 05/05/27). Evaluation by the local clerk -- Determination of election for vote on referendum.

(1) In relation to the manual referendum process, when the local clerk receives a referendum packet from a county clerk, the local clerk shall record the number of the referendum packet received.

(2) The county clerk shall:

(a) in relation to the manual referendum process:

(i) post the [~~names, ~~]voter identification numbers[,] and dates of signatures described in Subsection 20A-7-105(6)(a)(iii) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 45 calendar days; and

(ii) update on the local clerk's website the number of signatures certified as of the date of the update; or

(b) in relation to the electronic referendum process:

(i) post the names, voter identification numbers, and dates of signatures described in Subsection 20A-7-616(3) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 45 calendar days; and

(ii) update on the lieutenant governor's website the number of signatures certified as of the date of the update.

(3) The local clerk:

(a) shall, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), declare the referendum petition to be sufficient or insufficient:

(i) in relation to the manual referendum process, no later than 111 calendar days after the day of the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-105(5)(a)(iv), to submit a referendum packet to the county clerk; or

(ii) in relation to the electronic referendum process, no later than 111 calendar days after the day of the deadline, described in Subsection 20A-7-616(2), to collect a signature; or

(b) may declare the referendum petition to be insufficient before the day described in

Subsection (3)(a) if:

(i) in relation to the manual referendum process, the total of all valid signatures on timely and lawfully submitted referendum packets that have been certified by the county clerk, plus the number of signatures on timely and lawfully submitted referendum packets that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-601;

(ii) in relation to the electronic referendum process, the total of all timely and lawfully submitted valid signatures that have been certified by the county clerks, plus the number of timely and lawfully submitted valid signatures received under Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(b) that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-601; or

(iii) a requirement of this part has not been met.

(4)(a) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) equals or exceeds the number of names required under Section 20A-7-601, and the requirements of this part are met, the local clerk shall mark upon the front of the referendum petition the word "sufficient."

(b) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) does not equal or exceed the number of names required under Section 20A-7-601 or a requirement of this part is not met, the local clerk shall mark upon the front of the referendum petition the word "insufficient."

(c) The local clerk shall immediately notify any one of the sponsors of the local clerk's finding.

(d) After a referendum petition is declared insufficient, a person may not submit additional signatures to qualify the referendum for the ballot.

(5)(a) If the local clerk refuses to declare a referendum petition sufficient, any voter may, no later than 10 days after the day on which the local clerk declares the referendum petition insufficient, apply to the appropriate court for an order finding the referendum petition legally sufficient.

(b) If the court determines that the referendum petition is legally sufficient, the local clerk shall mark the referendum petition "sufficient" and consider the declaration of sufficiency effective as of the date on which the referendum petition should have been declared sufficient by the local clerk's office.

(c) If the court determines that a referendum petition filed is not legally sufficient, the court may enjoin the local clerk and all other officers from:

(i) certifying or printing the ballot title and numbers of that referendum on the official ballot for the next election; or

(ii) as it relates to a local tax law that is conducted entirely by mail, certifying, printing, or mailing the ballot title and numbers of that referendum under Section 20A-7-609.5.

(6) A referendum petition determined to be sufficient in accordance with this section is qualified for the ballot.

(7)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(b) or (c), if a referendum relates to legislative action taken after April 15, the election officer may not place the referendum on an election ballot until a primary election, a general election, or a special election the following year.

(b) The election officer may place a referendum described in Subsection (7)(a) on the ballot for a special, primary, or general election held during the year that the legislative action was taken if the following agree, in writing, on a timeline to place the referendum on that ballot:

(i) the local clerk;

(ii) the county clerk; and

(iii) the attorney for the county or municipality that took the legislative action.

(c) For a referendum on a land use law, if, before August 30, the local clerk or a court determines that the total number of certified names equals or exceeds the number of signatures required in Section 20A-7-601, the election officer shall place the referendum on the election ballot for:

(i) the next general election; or

(ii) another election, if the following agree, in writing, on a timeline to place the referendum on that ballot:

(A) the affected owners, as defined in Section 10-20-102 or 17-79-102, as applicable;

(B) the local clerk;

(C) the county clerk; and

(D) the attorney for the county or municipality that took the legislative action.

Section 18. Section **20A-7-703** is amended to read:

20A-7-703 (Effective 05/05/27). Analysis of initiative or referendum -- Determination of fiscal effects.

(1) The [~~director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, after the~~

~~approval of the~~]legislative general counsel[~~ as to legal sufficiency,~~] shall:

(a) prepare an impartial analysis of each measure submitted to the voters by initiative or referendum petition; and

(b) submit the impartial analysis to the lieutenant governor no later than the last business day that is at least 90 calendar days before the date of the election in which the measure will appear on the ballot.

(2) The [~~director~~] legislative general counsel shall ensure that the impartial analysis:

(a) is not more than 1,000 words long;

(b) is prepared in clear and concise language that will easily be understood by the average voter;

(c) avoids the use of technical terms as much as possible;

(d) shows the effect of the measure on existing law;

(e) identifies any potential conflicts with the United States or Utah Constitutions raised by the measure;

(f) fairly describes the operation of the measure;

(g) identifies the measure's fiscal effects over the time period or time periods determined by the director to be most useful in understanding the estimated fiscal impact of the proposed law; and

(h) identifies the amount of any increase or decrease in revenue or cost to state or local government.

(3)(a) In determining the fiscal effects of a measure, the [~~director~~] legislative general counsel shall confer with the legislative fiscal analyst.

(b) The [~~director~~] legislative general counsel shall consider any measure that requires implementing legislation in order to take effect to have no financial effect, unless implementing legislation has been enacted that will become effective upon adoption of the measure by the voters.

(4) If the [~~director~~] legislative general counsel requests the assistance of any state department, agency, or official in preparing the director's analysis, that department, agency, or official shall assist the director.

(5)(a) No later than one business day after the day on which the legislative general counsel complies with Subsection (1)(b), the lieutenant governor shall send the analysis described in Subsection (1) to a sponsor of the initiative or referendum.

(b) Three sponsors of the initiative or referendum may, no later than 10 calendar days after the first day on which the lieutenant governor complies with Subsection (5)(a),

file an action in a court with jurisdiction challenging the wording of the analysis.

(c) There is a presumption that the analysis prepared by the legislative general counsel complies with the requirements of this section and is accurate and impartial.

(d) The court may not revise the wording of the analysis unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption described in Subsection (5)(c) by clearly and convincingly establishing that the analysis:

(i) fails to comply with the requirements of this section; or

(ii) is false or biased.

(e) The court shall:

(i) examine the analysis;

(ii) consider the arguments of the parties; and

(iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this Subsection (5).

(f) The lieutenant governor shall publish the analysis in accordance with the court's order and the requirements of this section.

Section 19. Section **20A-7-703.1** is amended to read:

20A-7-703.1 (Effective 05/05/27). Analysis of measure submitted to voters by Legislature -- Determination of fiscal effects.

(1) As provided in this section, the legislative general counsel shall prepare an analysis of each measure described in Section 20A-7-103 that the Legislature submits to the voters.

(2) The legislative general counsel shall ensure that the analysis:

(a) is not more than 1,000 words long;

(b) is prepared in clear and concise language that will easily be understood by the average voter;

(c) to the extent possible, avoids the use of technical terms;

(d) shows the effect of the measure on existing law;

(e) describes the measure;

(f) in relation to legislation that is enacted and will become effective upon the voters' adoption of the proposed constitutional amendment, summarizes the portion of the legislation that relates to the constitutional amendment;

[~~(f)~~] (g) identifies the measure's fiscal effects over the time period or time periods determined by the legislative general counsel to be most useful in understanding the estimated fiscal impact of the measure; and

[~~(g)~~] (h) identifies the amount of any increase or decrease in revenue or cost to state or local government.

[~~(3) The legislative general counsel shall analyze the measure as the measure is proposed to be adopted, without considering any implementing legislation, unless the implementing legislation has been enacted and will become effective upon the adoption of the measure by the voters.~~]

[~~(4)~~] (3)[~~(a)~~] In determining the fiscal effects of a measure, the legislative general counsel shall confer with the legislative fiscal analyst, and shall take into account the portion of legislation described in Subsection (2)(f) that relates to the constitutional amendment.

[~~(b) The legislative general counsel shall consider any measure that requires implementing legislation in order to take effect to have no financial effect, unless implementing legislation has been enacted that will become effective upon adoption of the measure by the voters.~~]

[~~(5)~~] (4) If the legislative general counsel requests the assistance of any state department, agency, or official in preparing the analysis described in this section, that department, agency, or official shall assist the legislative general counsel.

[~~(6)~~] (5) The legislative general counsel shall submit the analysis to the lieutenant governor no later than the last business day that is at least 90 calendar days before the date of the election [~~in~~] at which the measure will appear on the ballot.

[~~(7)~~] (6) Consistent with Section 36-12-12, the legislative general counsel performs the duties in this section as counsel for the presiding officers.

(7)(a) No later than three business days after the day on which the legislative general counsel complies with Subsection (5), the lieutenant governor shall publish for the state, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least 10 calendar days:

(i) the analysis described in Subsection (5);

(ii) information stating that a voter may challenge the wording of the analysis by filing an action in a court with jurisdiction; and

(iii) the deadline for filing an action described in Subsection (7)(a)(ii).

(b) A voter may, no later than nine calendar days after the first day on which the lieutenant governor publishes the notice described in Subsection (7)(a), file an action in a court with jurisdiction challenging the wording of the analysis.

(c) There is a presumption that the analysis prepared by the legislative general counsel complies with the requirements of this section and is accurate and impartial.

(d) The court may not revise the wording of the analysis unless the plaintiffs rebut the presumption described in Subsection (7)(c) by clearly and convincingly establishing

that the analysis:

(i) fails to comply with the requirements of this section; or

(ii) is false or biased.

(e) The court shall:

(i) examine the analysis;

(ii) consider the arguments of the parties; and

(iii) enter an order consistent with the requirements of this Subsection (7).

(f) The lieutenant governor shall publish the analysis in accordance with the court's order and the requirements of this section.

Section 20. Section **20A-7-704** is amended to read:

20A-7-704 (Effective 05/05/27). Initiative measures -- Arguments for and against -- Voters' requests for argument -- Ballot arguments.

(1)(a) [~~Before 5 p.m. no later than July 1~~] No later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is on or after May 15 of the regular general election year, a sponsor of any initiative petition that has been declared sufficient by the lieutenant governor may deliver to the lieutenant governor a written notice that the sponsor intends to submit a written argument for adoption of the measure.

(b) If two or more sponsors timely submit a notice described in Subsection (1)(a), the lieutenant governor shall, no later than one business day after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (1)(a), designate one of the sponsors to submit the argument for the sponsor's side of the measure.

(2)(a) [~~Before 5 p.m. no later than July 1~~] No later than 5 p.m on the first business day that is on or after May 15 of the regular general election year, a member of the Legislature may deliver to the speaker of the House and the president of the Senate a written notice that the legislator intends to submit a written argument against adoption of an initiative petition that has been declared sufficient by the lieutenant governor.

(b) If two or more legislators timely submit a notice described in Subsection (2)(a), the speaker of the House and the president of the Senate shall, no later than [~~July 5~~] three business days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (2)(a), jointly designate one of the legislators to submit the argument to the lieutenant governor.

(3) The sponsors and the legislators submitting arguments shall ensure that each argument:

(a) does not exceed 500 words in length, not counting the information described in Subsection (5); and

(b) is delivered to the lieutenant governor [~~before 5 p.m. no later than July 10~~] no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day in May.

(4)(a) If an argument for or against a measure to be submitted to the voters by initiative petition has not been filed within the time required under Subsection (3)(b):

[~~(i) the Office of the Lieutenant Governor shall immediately:~~]

[~~(A) send an electronic notice that complies with the requirements of Subsection (4)(b) to each individual in the state for whom the Office of the Lieutenant Governor has an email address; or~~]

[~~(B) post a notice that complies with the requirements of Subsection (4)(b) on the home page of the lieutenant governor's website;~~]

(i) the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (4)(b), no later than the first business day in June, publish for the state, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least seven calendar days, notice of the opportunity for a voter to submit a missing argument;

(ii) any voter may, [~~before 5 p.m. no later than July 15~~] no later than 5 p.m. on the fifth business day in June, deliver written notice to the lieutenant governor that the voter intends to submit a written argument for the side on which no argument has been filed; and

(iii) no later than the sixth business day in June, the lieutenant governor shall designate one of the voters who timely delivered a notice of intent described in Subsection (4)(a)(ii) to submit the missing argument.

[~~(iii) if two or more voters timely submit the notice described in Subsection (4)(a)(ii) in relation to the same side of a measure, the lieutenant governor shall designate one of the voters to write the argument.~~]

(b) A notice described in Subsection (4)(a)(i) shall contain:

(i) [~~the ballot title for~~] a description of the measure;

(ii) instructions on how to submit a request under Subsection (4)(a)(ii); and

(iii) the deadlines described in Subsections (4)(a)(ii) and (4)(c).

(c) Any argument prepared under this Subsection (4) shall be submitted to the lieutenant governor[~~before 5 p.m.~~] , in writing, no later than [~~July 20~~] 5 p.m. on the eleventh business day in June.

(5)(a) The authors of an argument submitted in accordance with this section may, if an opposing argument was submitted in accordance with this section, submit a rebuttal argument, in writing, to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on the last

business day that is at least 90 calendar days before the day of the election where the initiative will appear on the ballot.

(b) A rebuttal argument may not exceed 250 words in length, not counting the information described in Subsection (6).

[~~(5)~~] (6) The lieutenant governor may not accept a ballot argument submitted under this section unless the argument lists[~~:~~]

[~~(a)~~] the name and address of the individual submitting the argument[~~, if the argument is submitted by an individual voter; or~~] .

[~~(b) the name and address of the organization and the names and addresses of at least two of the organization's principal officers, if the argument is submitted on behalf of an organization.~~]

(7)(a) The lieutenant governor shall, no later than the first business day after the day on which the lieutenant timely receives both the argument in favor of an initiative described in this section and the argument against the initiative, send copies of each argument to the authors of the opposing argument.

(b) If the lieutenant governor only timely receives one of the arguments described in Subsection (7)(a), the lieutenant governor is not required to send the argument received to the individuals who failed to timely submit the other argument.

(c) The lieutenant governor shall, no later than the first business day after the day on which the lieutenant governor timely receives both the rebuttal argument in favor of an initiative described in this section and the rebuttal argument against the initiative, send copies of each rebuttal argument to the authors of the opposing rebuttal argument.

(d) If the lieutenant governor only timely receives one of the rebuttal arguments described in Subsection (7)(c), the lieutenant governor is not required to send the rebuttal argument received to the individuals who failed to timely submit the other rebuttal argument.

[~~(6)~~] (8)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(6)(c) or (d)~~] (8)(c) or (d), the authors may not amend or change [~~the arguments after they are submitted~~] an argument or rebuttal argument after submission to the lieutenant governor.

(b) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(6)(c) or (d)~~] (8)(c) or (d), the lieutenant governor may not alter [~~the arguments~~] an argument or rebuttal argument in any way.

(c) The lieutenant governor and the authors of an argument or rebuttal argument described in this section may jointly modify the argument or rebuttal argument after [

~~the argument is submitted~~] submission, if:

(i) the lieutenant governor and the authors jointly agree that changes to:

(A) the argument or rebuttal must be made to correct spelling or grammatical errors; or

(B) properly characterize the position of a state entity, if the argument or rebuttal mischaracterizes the position of a state entity; and

(ii) the argument or rebuttal argument has not yet been submitted for [~~typesetting~~] publication.

(d) If, after the lieutenant governor determines that an argument or rebuttal argument described in this section mischaracterizes the position of a state entity, the lieutenant governor and the authors of the argument or rebuttal argument cannot jointly agree on a change to the argument or rebuttal argument, the lieutenant governor:

(i) shall publish the argument or rebuttal argument with the mischaracterization; and

(ii) may, immediately following the argument or rebuttal argument, publish a brief description of the position of the state entity.

(9) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that:

(a) rebuttal arguments are printed in the same manner as the direct arguments; and

(b) each rebuttal argument follows immediately after the direct argument that the rebuttal argument rebuts.

Section 21. Section **20A-7-705** is amended to read:

20A-7-705 (Effective 05/05/27). Measures submitted to voters by Legislature and referendum measures -- Preparation of argument and rebuttal argument.

(1)(a) [~~Whenever~~] When the Legislature submits [~~any~~] a measure to the voters[~~ or whenever an act of the Legislature is referred to the voters by referendum petition, the presiding officer of the house of origin of the measure shall appoint the sponsor of the measure or act and one member of either house who voted with the majority to pass the act or submit the measure to draft an argument for the adoption of the measure~~] , the arguments and rebuttal arguments submitted in favor and against the measure are governed by this section and Section 20A-7-707.

(b) When a law passed by the Legislature is referred to the voters by referendum petition, the arguments and rebuttal arguments submitted in favor and against the law are governed by this section and Section 20A-7-708.

[~~(b)~~] (2)[~~(i)~~] (a) [~~The~~] An argument described in this section may not exceed 500 words in length, not counting the information described in Subsection [~~(4)(c)~~] (3).

[~~(ii)~~] (b) If the sponsor of the measure or [~~act~~] law desires separate arguments to be written in favor by each [~~person~~] legislator appointed to work on an argument, separate arguments may be written but the combined length of the two arguments may not exceed 500 words, not counting the information described in Subsection [~~(4)(c)~~] (3).

(c) A rebuttal argument described in this section may not exceed 250 words in length, not counting the information described in Subsection (3).

[~~(2)(a) If a measure or act submitted to the voters by the Legislature or by referendum petition was not adopted unanimously by the Legislature, the presiding officer of each house shall, at the same time as appointments to an argument in its favor are made, appoint one member who voted against the measure or act from their house to write an argument against the measure or act.~~]

[~~(b)(i) The argument may not exceed 500 words, not counting the information described in Subsection (4)(c).~~]

[~~(ii) If those members appointed to write an argument against the measure or act desire separate arguments to be written in opposition to the measure or act by each person appointed, separate arguments may be written, but the combined length of the two arguments may not exceed 500 words, not counting the information described in Subsection (4)(c).~~]

[~~(3)(a) The legislators appointed by the presiding officer of the Senate or House of Representatives to submit arguments shall submit the arguments to the lieutenant governor not later than 150 calendar days before the date of the election.~~]

[~~(b) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(d), the authors may not amend or change the arguments after they are submitted to the lieutenant governor.~~]

[~~(c) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(d), the lieutenant governor may not alter the arguments in any way.~~]

[~~(d) The lieutenant governor and the authors of an argument may jointly modify an argument after it is submitted if:~~]

[~~(i) they jointly agree that changes to the argument must be made to correct spelling or grammatical errors; and~~]

[~~(ii) the argument has not yet been submitted for typesetting.~~]

[~~(4)(a) If an argument for or an argument against a measure submitted to the voters by the Legislature or by referendum petition has not been filed by a member of the Legislature within the time required by this section:~~]

[~~(i) the lieutenant governor shall immediately:~~]

[~~(A) send an electronic notice that complies with the requirements of Subsection (4)(b) to each individual in the state for whom the Office of the Lieutenant Governor has an email address; or~~]

[~~(B) post a notice that complies with the requirements of Subsection (4)(b) on the home page of the lieutenant governor's website; and~~]

[~~(ii) any voter may, no later than the first business day that is at least seven calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor provides the notice described in Subsection (4)(a)(i), submit a written request to the presiding officer of the house in which the measure originated for permission to prepare and file an argument for the side on which no argument has been filed by a member of the Legislature.~~]

[~~(b) A notice described in Subsection (4)(a)(i) shall contain:~~]

[~~(i) the ballot title for the measure;~~]

[~~(ii) instructions on how to submit a request under Subsection (4)(a)(ii); and~~]

[~~(iii) the deadlines described in Subsections (4)(a)(ii) and (4)(d).~~]

[~~(c)(i) The presiding officer of the house of origin shall grant permission unless two or more voters timely request permission to submit arguments on the same side of a measure.~~]

[~~(ii) If two or more voters timely request permission to submit arguments on the same side of a measure, the presiding officer shall, no later than four calendar days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (4)(a)(ii), designate one of the voters to write the argument.~~]

[~~(d) Any argument prepared under this Subsection (4) shall be submitted to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least seven calendar days after the day on which the presiding officer grants permission to submit the argument.~~]

[~~(e)~~] (3) The lieutenant governor may not accept [~~a ballot~~] an argument or rebuttal argument submitted under this section unless the [~~ballot~~]argument or rebuttal argument lists[~~:~~]

[~~(i)~~] the name and address of the individual submitting the argument[~~, if the argument is submitted by an individual voter; or~~] .

[~~(ii) the name and address of the organization and the names and addresses of at least two of the organization's principal officers, if the argument is submitted on behalf of an organization.~~]

[~~(f)~~] (4)(a) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(4)(h)~~] (4)(c), the authors of an argument or rebuttal argument may not amend or change the [~~arguments after they are submitted~~] argument or rebuttal argument after submission to the lieutenant governor.

[~~(g)~~] (b) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(4)(h)~~] (4)(c), the lieutenant governor may not alter the arguments in any way.

[~~(h)~~] (c) The lieutenant governor and the authors of an argument or rebuttal argument may jointly modify [~~an argument after it is submitted~~] the argument or rebuttal argument after submission if:

(i) [~~they~~] the lieutenant governor and the authors jointly agree that changes to the argument or rebuttal argument must be made to:

(A) correct spelling or grammatical errors; or

(B) properly characterize the position of a state entity, if the argument mischaracterizes the position of a state entity; and

(ii) the argument has not yet been submitted for [~~typesetting~~] publication.

[~~(i)~~] (d) If, after the lieutenant governor determines that an argument or rebuttal argument described in this section mischaracterizes the position of a state entity, the lieutenant governor and the authors of the argument or rebuttal argument cannot jointly agree on a change to the argument or rebuttal argument, the lieutenant governor:

(i) shall publish the argument or rebuttal argument with the mischaracterization; and

(ii) may, immediately following the argument or rebuttal argument, publish a brief description of the position of the state entity.

(5)(a) The lieutenant governor shall, no later than the first business day after the day on which the lieutenant governor timely receives both the argument in favor of a measure or law described in this section and the argument against a measure or law described in this section, send copies of each argument to the authors of the opposing argument.

(b) If the lieutenant governor only timely receives one of the arguments described in Subsection (5)(a), the lieutenant governor is not required to send the argument received to the individuals who failed to timely submit the other argument.

(c) The lieutenant governor shall, no later than the first business day after the day on which the lieutenant governor timely receives both the rebuttal argument in favor of a measure or law described in this section and the rebuttal argument against a measure or law described in this section, send copies of each rebuttal argument to the authors of the opposing rebuttal argument.

(d) If the lieutenant governor only timely receives one of the rebuttal arguments described in Subsection (5)(c), the lieutenant governor is not required to send the rebuttal argument received to the individuals who failed to timely submit the other rebuttal argument.

(6) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that:

(a) rebuttal arguments are printed in the same manner as the direct arguments; and

(b) each rebuttal argument follows immediately after the direct argument that the rebuttal argument rebuts.

Section 22. Section **20A-7-707** is enacted to read:

20A-7-707 (Effective 05/05/27). Preparation of arguments and rebuttal arguments for and against measure submitted to voters by the Legislature.

(1)(a) In relation to a measure submitted to the voters submitted by the Legislature, the presiding officer of the house of origin of the measure shall, no later than the first business day in April of the year of the next regular general election:

(i) appoint the sponsor of the measure, and one member of either house who voted in favor of the measure, to draft an argument in favor of the measure; and

(ii) except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), appoint one member of either house who voted against the measure to write an argument against the measure.

(b) If a measure described in Subsection (1)(a) was adopted unanimously by the Legislature, or if a legislator cannot be found to write an argument against the measure:

(i) the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (6), no later than three business days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (1)(a), publish for the state, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least 10 calendar days, notice of the opportunity for a voter to submit an argument against the measure;

(ii) a voter may, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least nine calendar days after the first day on which lieutenant governor publishes the notice described in Subsection (1)(b)(i), submit a written request to the presiding officer described in Subsection (1)(a) for permission to submit an argument against the measure; and

(iii) the presiding officer described in Subsection (1)(a) shall, no later than three business days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (1)(b)(ii), appoint one of the voters who timely submits a request under Subsection (1)(b)(ii)

to draft an argument against the measure.

(2) An individual appointed to draft an argument under Subsection (1) shall submit the argument, in writing, to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day in June of the year of the next regular general election.

(3) If an argument is not timely filed under Subsection (2):

(a) the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (6), no later than the first business day after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (2), publish for the state, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least seven calendar days, notice of the opportunity of a voter to submit a missing argument;

(b) a voter may, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least six calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor first publishes the notice described in Subsection (3)(a), submit a written request to the presiding officer described in Subsection (1) for permission to prepare and file an argument, as applicable, for or against the measure; and

(c) the presiding officer described in Subsection (1)(a) shall, no later than three business days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (3)(b), appoint one of the voters who timely submits a request under Subsection (3)(b) to draft the applicable argument.

(4) A voter appointed under Subsection (3)(c) shall submit the argument, in writing, to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. five business days after the day of the voter's appointment.

(5) The authors of an argument submitted in accordance with this section may, if an opposing argument was submitted in accordance with this section, submit a rebuttal argument, in writing, to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on the tenth business day in July of the year of the next regular general election.

(6) A notice described in Subsections (1)(b)(i) and (3)(a) shall:

(a) identify the measure;

(b) state whether an argument for the measure, against the measure, or both, is needed;

(c) provide instructions on how to submit a request to draft an argument;

(d) include the full text of the measure, or a link to the full text of the measure; and

(e) state the applicable deadlines described in:

(i) Subsections (1)(b)(ii) and (2); or

(ii) Subsections (3)(b) and (4).

Section 23. Section **20A-7-708** is enacted to read:

20A-7-708 (Effective 05/05/27). Preparation of arguments and rebuttal arguments for and against law challenged by statewide referendum.

(1) In relation to a statewide referendum challenging a law passed by the Legislature:

(a) the presiding officer of the house of origin of the law shall, no later than the first business day in April of the year of the next regular general election:

(i) appoint the sponsor of the law, and one member of either house who voted in favor of the law, to draft an argument in favor of the law; and

(ii) except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), appoint one member of either house who voted against the law to draft an argument against the law.

(b) If a law described in Subsection (1)(a) was adopted unanimously by the Legislature, or if a legislator cannot be found to write an argument against the law:

(i) the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (6), no later than three business days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (1)(a), publish notice for the state, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least seven calendar days of the opportunity for a voter to submit an argument against the measure;

(ii) a voter may, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least six calendar days after the first day on which lieutenant governor publishes the notice described in Subsection (1)(b)(i), submit a written request to the presiding officer described in Subsection (1)(a) for permission to submit an argument against the law; and

(iii) the presiding officer described in Subsection (1)(a) shall, no later than three business days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (1)(b)(ii), appoint one of the voters who timely submits a request under Subsection (1)(b)(ii) to draft an argument against the law.

(2) An individual appointed to draft an argument under Subsection (1) shall submit the argument, in writing, to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. the later of:

(a) the first business day in July; or

(b) three business days after the day on which the lieutenant governor declares the referendum petition sufficient.

(3) If an argument is not timely filed under Subsection (2):

(a) the lieutenant governor shall, in accordance with Subsection (6), no later than the first business day after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (2), publish for the state, as a class A notice under Section 63G-30-102, for at least seven

calendar days, notice of the opportunity of a voter to submit a missing argument;

(b) a voter may, no later than 5 p.m. on the first business day that is at least six calendar days after the day on which the lieutenant governor first publishes the notice described in Subsection (3)(a), submit a written request to the presiding officer described in Subsection (1) for permission to prepare and file an argument, as applicable, for or against the law; and

(c) the presiding officer described in Subsection (1)(a) shall, no later than three business days after the day of the deadline described in Subsection (3)(b), appoint one of the voters who timely submits a request under Subsection (3)(b) to draft the applicable argument.

(4) A voter appointed under Subsection (3)(c) shall submit the argument, in writing, to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. five business days after the day of the voter's appointment.

(5) The authors of an argument submitted in accordance with this section may, if an opposing argument was submitted in accordance with this section, submit a rebuttal argument, in writing, to the lieutenant governor no later than 5 p.m. on the last business day that is at least 90 calendar days before the date of the next regular general election.

(6) A notice described in Subsections (1)(b)(i) and (3)(a) shall:

(a) identify the law;

(b) state whether an argument for the law, against the law, or both, is needed;

(c) provide instructions on how to submit a request to draft an argument;

(d) include the full text of the law, or a link to the full text of the law; and

(e) state the applicable deadlines described in:

(i) Subsections (1)(b)(ii) and (2); or

(ii) Subsections (3)(b) and (4).

Section 24. **Repealer.**

This bill repeals:

Section **20A-7-706, Copies of arguments to be sent to opposing authors -- Rebuttal arguments.**

Section 25. **Effective Date.**

This bill takes effect on May 5, 2027.