

# ARIZONA STATE SENATE

## RESEARCH STAFF



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TO: MEMBERS OF THE SENATE  
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Strike everything amendment to H.B. 2497, relating to petitions; electronic signatures

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### Purpose

Requires the Secretary of State (SOS) to provide a secure, online petition signature collection system (E-Qual) for candidates for judicial office.

### Background

In 2014, the Legislature enacted legislation that requires the SOS to provide for E-Qual for qualified electors to sign a nomination petition by way of a secure internet portal and requires the E-Qual to authorize and verify the identity of those qualified elector's eligible to sign a candidate's petition. Any nomination petition for a candidate for judge of the superior court, judge of the court of appeals or justice of the supreme court to be voted on at any election must be prepared and filed and include a minimum number of required nomination petition signatures. Statute prescribes the minimum number of signatures that a nomination petition must include as follows: 1) at least one-fourth of the qualified signers in the state, for a state office excluding members of the Legislature; and 2) at least one percent of the qualified signers in the county or district, for a county office or superior court judge (A.R.S. §§ [16-322](#) and [16-333](#); [Laws 2014, Ch. 45](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

### Provisions

1. Requires the SOS to provide for E-Qual for qualified electors to sign a nomination petition for candidates for judicial offices that require nomination petitions and the office of clerk of the superior court that allows candidates to collect up to the full amount of required nomination petition signatures by way of a secure internet portal.
2. Makes conforming changes.
3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.