

Second Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R14-0294.01 Ed DeCecco x4216

HCR14-1002

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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Crowder and Schwartz,

House Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Senate Committees

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 14-1002

101 SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF
102 COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION
103 CONCERNING THE PETITION SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR A
104 CITIZEN-INITIATED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, AND, IN
105 CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING A PORTION OF THE
106 PETITION SIGNATURES FOR THE AMENDMENT BE GATHERED
107 FROM VOTERS WHO RESIDE IN EACH COLORADO
108 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, INCREASING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF
109 PETITION SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR THE AMENDMENT, AND
110 EXCLUDING THE REPEAL OF AN AMENDMENT PASSED PRIOR TO
111 **2015** FROM THESE PETITION SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.

Resolution Summary

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

(Note: This summary applies to this resolution as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this resolution passes third reading in the house of introduction, a resolution summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this resolution will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The resolution doubles the number of signatures required for an initiative petition that amends the state constitution. It also adds a new requirement that a portion of those signatures be collected from each congressional district in the state. For each district, this geographic distribution currently equals 1% of the votes cast for the secretary of state, but this percentage will change if the number of state congressional districts changes. An initiative petition that includes both state legislation, which includes statutory changes, and a constitutional amendment must meet the signature requirements for a constitutional amendment. Neither the increased signature requirement nor the geographic distribution requirement applies to a measure that only repeals any provision from any amendment approved by voters prior to 2015.

1 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-ninth*
2 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

3 **SECTION 1.** At the next election at which such question may be
4 submitted, there shall be submitted to the registered electors of the state
5 of Colorado, for their approval or rejection, the following amendment to
6 the constitution of the state of Colorado, to wit:

7 In the constitution of the state of Colorado, section 1 of article V,
8 **amend** (2) as follows:

9 **Section 1. General assembly - initiative and referendum.**
10 (2) (a) The first power hereby reserved by the people is the initiative. ~~and~~
11 EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2),
12 signatures by registered electors in an amount equal to at least five
13 percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office
14 of secretary of state at the previous general election shall be required to

1 propose any measure by petition, and every such petition shall include the
2 full text of the measure so proposed. Initiative petitions for state
3 legislation and amendments to the constitution, in such form as may be
4 prescribed pursuant to law, shall be addressed to and filed with the
5 secretary of state at least three months before the general election at
6 which they are to be voted upon.

7 (b) SIGNATURES BY REGISTERED ELECTORS IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL
8 TO AT LEAST TEN PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR ALL
9 CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE PREVIOUS
10 GENERAL ELECTION ARE REQUIRED TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE
11 CONSTITUTION BY PETITION THAT IS VOTED UPON AT THE 2015 ODD-YEAR
12 ELECTION OR ANY ELECTION THEREAFTER, BUT THIS REQUIREMENT DOES
13 NOT APPLY TO AN AMENDMENT THAT ONLY REPEALS ANY PROVISION FROM
14 ANY AMENDMENT APPROVED BY VOTERS PRIOR TO 2015.

15 (c) A MINIMUM NUMBER OF SIGNATURES BY REGISTERED ELECTORS
16 RESIDING IN EACH UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN
17 COLORADO IS REQUIRED TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE
18 CONSTITUTION BY PETITION THAT IS VOTED UPON AT THE 2015 ODD-YEAR
19 ELECTION OR ANY ELECTION THEREAFTER. THIS MINIMUM NUMBER IS
20 EQUAL TO SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF THE TOTAL
21 SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR THE INITIATIVE PETITION PURSUANT TO
22 PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2) DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF
23 UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN COLORADO. FOR PURPOSES
24 OF THIS PARAGRAPH (c), THE NUMBER AND BOUNDARIES OF THE
25 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS ARE THOSE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME THAT THE
26 INITIATIVE PETITION IS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS
27 REQUIREMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO AN AMENDMENT THAT ONLY REPEALS

1 ANY PROVISION FROM ANY AMENDMENT APPROVED BY VOTERS PRIOR TO
2 2015.

3 (d) AN INITIATIVE PETITION FOR STATE LEGISLATION AND AN
4 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
5 AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR PURPOSES OF THE SIGNATURE
6 REQUIREMENTS IN PARAGRAPHS (b) AND (c) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2).

7 **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at said election and desirous of
8 voting for or against said amendment shall cast a vote as provided by law
9 either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the proposition: "Shall there be an
10 amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning the petition
11 signatures required for a citizen-initiated constitutional amendment that
12 requires a portion of the petition signatures for the amendment be
13 gathered from voters who reside in each Colorado congressional district,
14 increases the total number of petition signatures required for the
15 amendment, and excludes the repeal of an amendment passed prior to
16 2015 from these petition signature requirements?"

17 **SECTION 3.** The votes cast for the adoption or rejection of said
18 amendment shall be canvassed and the result determined in the manner
19 provided by law for the canvassing of votes for representatives in
20 Congress, and if a majority of the electors voting on the question shall
21 have voted "Yes/For", the said amendment shall become a part of the
22 state constitution.