

1 **Statewide Referenda Modifications**

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Andrew Stoddard

Senate Sponsor:

3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill addresses statewide referenda.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

8 ▶ extends the amount of time that the sponsors of a referendum petition have to gather
9 signatures to qualify the referendum for the ballot;

10 ▶ makes conforming timeline changes to accommodate the extension of the
11 signature-gathering period;

12 ▶ amends provisions regarding the effective date of legislation that may be subject to a
13 referendum; and

14 ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

15 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

16 None

17 **Other Special Clauses:**

18 None

19 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

20 AMENDS:

21 **20A-7-105**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapters 442, 465

22 **20A-7-307**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 107, 116 and last amended
23 by Coordination Clause, Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116

24 **20A-7-311**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 107

25 **20A-7-705**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 217, 255

26 **20A-7-706**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 255

28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **20A-7-105** is amended to read:

30 **20A-7-105 . Manual petition processes -- Obtaining signatures -- Verification --**

31 **Submitting the petition -- Certification of signatures -- Transfer to lieutenant governor --**
32 **Removal of signature.**

33 (1) This section applies only to the manual initiative process and the manual referendum
34 process.

35 (2) As used in this section:

36 (a) "Local petition" means:

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

39 (ii) a manual local referendum petition described in Part 6, Local Referenda -
40 Procedures.

41 (b) "Packet" means an initiative packet or referendum packet.

42 (c) "Petition" means a local petition or statewide petition.

43 (d) "Statewide petition" means:

44 (i) a manual statewide initiative petition described in Part 2, Statewide Initiatives; or

45 (ii) a manual statewide referendum petition described in Part 3, Statewide Referenda.

46 (3)(a) A Utah voter may sign a statewide petition if the voter is a legal voter.

47 (b) A Utah voter may sign a local petition if the voter:

48 (i) is a legal voter; and

49 (ii) resides in the local jurisdiction.

50 (4)(a) The sponsors shall ensure that the individual in whose presence each signature
51 sheet was signed:

52 (i) is at least 18 years old;

53 (ii) verifies each signature sheet by completing the verification printed on the last
54 page of each packet; and

55 (iii) is informed that each signer is required to read and understand:

56 (A) for an initiative petition, the law proposed by the initiative; or

57 (B) for a referendum petition, the law that the referendum seeks to overturn.

58 (b) An individual may not sign the verification printed on the last page of a packet if the
59 individual signed a signature sheet in the packet.

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

63 (i) for a statewide initiative:

64 (A) 30 days after the day on which the first individual signs the initiative packet;

- 65 (B) 316 days after the day on which the application for the initiative petition is
66 filed; or
- 67 (C) the February 15 immediately before the next regular general election
68 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-202;
- 69 (ii) for a statewide referendum:
- 70 (A) 30 days after the day on which the first individual signs the referendum
71 packet; or
- 72 (B) ~~[40]~~ 60 days after the day on which the legislative session at which the law
73 passed ends;
- 74 (iii) for a local initiative:
- 75 (A) 30 days after the day on which the first individual signs the initiative packet;
76 (B) 316 days after the day on which the application is filed;
- 77 (C) the April 15 immediately before the next regular general election immediately
78 after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local initiative is a
79 county initiative; or
- 80 (D) the April 15 immediately before the next municipal general election
81 immediately after the application is filed under Section 20A-7-502, if the local
82 initiative is a municipal initiative; or
- 83 (iv) for a local referendum:
- 84 (A) 30 days after the day on which the first individual signs the referendum
85 packet; or
- 86 (B) 45 days after the day on which the sponsors receive the items described in
87 Subsection 20A-7-604(3) from the local clerk.
- 88 (b) A person may not submit a packet after the applicable deadline described in
89 Subsection (5)(a).
- 90 (c) Before delivering an initiative packet to the county clerk under this Subsection (5),
91 the sponsors shall send an email to each individual who provides a legible, valid
92 email address on the signature sheet that includes the following:
- 93 (i) the subject of the email shall include the following statement, "Notice Regarding
94 Your Petition Signature"; and
- 95 (ii) the body of the email shall include the following statement in 12-point type:
96 "You signed a petition for the following initiative:
97 [insert title of initiative]
98 To access a copy of the initiative petition, the initiative, the fiscal impact statement, and

99 information on the deadline for removing your signature from the petition, please visit the
 100 following link: [insert a uniform resource locator that takes the individual directly to the page
 101 on the lieutenant governor's or county clerk's website that includes the information referred to
 102 in the email]."

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

106 (i) a list containing:

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

109 (B) the date the email was sent;

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

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

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

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

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

118 _____
 119 (Name) (Residence Address) (Date)".

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

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

125 (6)(a) Within 21 days after the day on which the county clerk receives the packet, the
 126 county clerk shall:

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

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

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

132 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal

- 133 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
134 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and
135 (C) deliver the verified packet to the lieutenant governor;
- 136 (iii) for a local initiative or a local referendum:
- 137 (A) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a legal voter who is
138 registered in the jurisdiction to which the initiative or referendum relates;
- 139 (B) post the name, voter identification number, and date of signature of each legal
140 voter certified under Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(A) on the lieutenant governor's
141 website, in a conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor; and
142 (C) deliver the verified packet to the local clerk.
- 143 (b) For a local initiative or local referendum, the local clerk shall post a link in a
144 conspicuous location on the local government's website to the posting described in
145 Subsection (6)(a)(iii)(B):
- 146 (i) for a local initiative, during the period of time described in Subsection 20A-7-507
147 (3)(a); or
- 148 (ii) for a local referendum, during the period of time described in Subsection
149 20A-7-607(2)(a)(i).
- 150 (7) The county clerk may not certify a signature under Subsection (6):
- 151 (a) on a packet that is not verified in accordance with Subsection (4); or
152 (b) that does not have a date of signature next to the signature.
- 153 (8)(a) A voter who signs a statewide initiative petition may have the voter's signature
154 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
155 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
156 than the earlier of:
- 157 (i) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk before December 1:
- 158 (A) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the signature removal
159 statement; or
- 160 (B) 90 days after the day on which the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name
161 under Subsection 20A-7-207(2); or
- 162 (ii) for an initiative packet received by the county clerk on or after December 1:
- 163 (A) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the signature removal
164 statement; or
- 165 (B) 45 days after the day on which the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name
166 under Subsection 20A-7-207(2).

- 167 (b) A voter who signs a statewide referendum petition may have the voter's signature
168 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
169 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
170 than the earlier of:
- 171 (i) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
 - 172 (ii) 45 days after the day on which the lieutenant governor posts the voter's name
173 under Subsection 20A-7-307(2).
- 174 (c) A voter who signs a local initiative petition may have the voter's signature removed
175 from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to the
176 county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later than
177 the earlier of:
- 178 (i) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the signature removal statement;
 - 179 (ii) 90 days after the day on which the local clerk posts the voter's name under
180 Subsection 20A-7-507(2);
 - 181 (iii) 316 days after the day on which the application is filed; or
 - 182 (iv)(A) for a county initiative, April 15 immediately before the next regular
183 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
184 20A-7-502; or
 - 185 (B) for a municipal initiative, April 15 immediately before the next municipal
186 general election immediately after the application is filed under Section
187 20A-7-502.
- 188 (d) A voter who signs a local referendum petition may have the voter's signature
189 removed from the petition by, in accordance with Section 20A-1-1003, submitting to
190 the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed no later
191 than the earlier of:
- 192 (i) 30 days after the day on which the voter signs the statement requesting removal; or
 - 193 (ii) 45 days after the day on which the local clerk posts the voter's name under
194 Subsection 20A-7-607(2)(a).
- 195 (e) In order for the signature to be removed, the county clerk must receive the statement
196 described in this Subsection (8) before 5 p.m. no later than the applicable deadline
197 described in this Subsection (8).
- 198 (f) A county clerk shall analyze a signature, for purposes of removing a signature from a
199 petition, in accordance with Subsection 20A-1-1003(3).
- 200 (9)(a) If the county clerk timely receives a statement requesting signature removal under

- 201 Subsection (8) and determines that the signature should be removed from the petition
202 under Subsection 20A-1-1003(3), the county clerk shall:
- 203 (i) ensure that the voter's name, voter identification number, and date of signature are
204 not included in the posting described in Subsection (6)(a)(ii)(B) or (iii)(B); and
205 (ii) remove the voter's signature from the signature packets and signature packet
206 totals.
- 207 (b) The county clerk shall comply with Subsection (9)(a) before the later of:
208 (i) the deadline described in Subsection (6)(a); or
209 (ii) two business days after the day on which the county clerk receives a statement
210 requesting signature removal under Subsection (8).
- 211 (10) A person may not retrieve a packet from a county clerk, or make any alterations or
212 corrections to a packet, after the packet is submitted to the county clerk.
- 213 Section 2. Section **20A-7-307** is amended to read:
214 **20A-7-307 . Evaluation by the lieutenant governor.**
- 215 (1) In relation to the manual referendum process, when the lieutenant governor receives a
216 referendum packet from a county clerk, the lieutenant governor shall record the number
217 of the referendum packet received.
- 218 (2) The county clerk shall:
219 (a) in relation to the manual referendum process:
220 (i) post the names, voter identification numbers, and dates of signatures described in
221 Subsection 20A-7-105(6)(a)(iii) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a
222 conspicuous location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 45 days;
223 and
224 (ii) update on the lieutenant governor's website the number of signatures certified as
225 of the date of the update; or
226 (b) in relation to the electronic referendum process:
227 (i) post the names, voter identification numbers, and dates of signatures described in
228 Subsection 20A-7-315(4) on the lieutenant governor's website, in a conspicuous
229 location designated by the lieutenant governor, for at least 45 days; and
230 (ii) update on the lieutenant governor's website the number of signatures certified as
231 of the date of the update.
- 232 (3) The lieutenant governor:
233 (a) shall, except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), declare the referendum petition to be
234 sufficient or insufficient [~~106~~] 126 days after the end of the legislative session at

- 235 which the law passed; or
- 236 (b) may declare the referendum petition to be insufficient before the day described in
- 237 Subsection (3)(a) if:
- 238 (i) in relation to the manual referendum process, the total of all valid signatures on
- 239 timely and lawfully submitted referendum packets that have been certified by the
- 240 county clerks, plus the number of signatures on timely and lawfully submitted
- 241 referendum packets that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is less than
- 242 the number of names required under Section 20A-7-301;
- 243 (ii) in relation to the electronic referendum process, the total of all timely and
- 244 lawfully submitted valid signatures that have been certified by the county clerks,
- 245 plus the number of timely and lawfully submitted valid signatures received under
- 246 Subsection 20A-21-201(6)(b) that have not yet been evaluated for certification, is
- 247 less than the number of names required under Section 20A-7-301; or
- 248 (iii) a requirement of this part has not been met.
- 249 (4)(a) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) equals or exceeds the
- 250 number of names required under Section 20A-7-301, and the requirements of this
- 251 part are met, the lieutenant governor shall mark upon the front of the referendum
- 252 petition the word "sufficient."
- 253 (b) If the total number of names certified under Subsection (3) does not equal or exceed
- 254 the number of names required under Section 20A-7-301 or a requirement of this part
- 255 is not met, the lieutenant governor shall mark upon the front of the referendum
- 256 petition the word "insufficient."
- 257 (c) The lieutenant governor shall immediately notify any one of the sponsors of the
- 258 lieutenant governor's finding.
- 259 (d) After a referendum petition is declared insufficient, a person may not submit
- 260 additional signatures to qualify the referendum for the ballot.
- 261 (5)(a) If the lieutenant governor refuses to declare a referendum petition sufficient that a
- 262 voter believes is legally sufficient, the voter may, no later than 10 days after the day
- 263 on which the lieutenant governor declares the petition insufficient, apply to the
- 264 appropriate court for an order finding the referendum petition legally sufficient.
- 265 (b) If the court determines that the referendum petition is legally sufficient, the
- 266 lieutenant governor shall mark the referendum petition "sufficient" and consider the
- 267 declaration of sufficiency effective as of the date on which the referendum petition
- 268 should have been declared sufficient by the lieutenant governor's office.

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

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

274 Section 3. Section **20A-7-311** is amended to read:

275 **20A-7-311 . Temporary stay -- Effective date -- Effect of repeal by Legislature.**

276 (1)(a) Within 35 calendar days after the day on which the legislative session at which the
 277 law passed ends, the lieutenant governor shall:

278 (i) determine whether, within 30 calendar days after the day on which the legislative
 279 session at which the law passed ends, the sponsors have submitted signatures to
 280 the county clerks equal to at least 25% of the number of signatures required to
 281 qualify the referendum for placement on the ballot; and

282 (ii) issue a written statement of the results of the determination.

283 (b) If the lieutenant governor determines that the sponsors have met the 25% threshold
 284 described in Subsection (1)(a), the effective date of the law challenged by the
 285 referendum changes to the later of:

286 (i) the effective date of the law; or

287 (ii) the day after the day on which the lieutenant governor declares the referendum
 288 petition sufficient or insufficient under Section 20A-7-307.

289 (2) ~~[H]~~ Notwithstanding Subsection (1), if, at the time during the counting period described
 290 in Section 20A-7-307, the lieutenant governor determines that, at that point in time, an
 291 adequate number of signatures are certified to comply with the signature requirements,
 292 the lieutenant governor shall:

293 (a) issue an order temporarily staying the law from going into effect; and

294 (b) continue the process of certifying signatures and removing signatures as required by
 295 this part.

296 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) The temporary stay described in Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2) remains in effect, regardless of
 297 whether a future count falls below the signature threshold, until the day on which:

298 (a) if the lieutenant governor declares the referendum petition insufficient, five days
 299 after the day on which the lieutenant governor declares the referendum petition
 300 insufficient; or

301 (b) if the lieutenant governor declares the referendum petition sufficient, the day on
 302 which governor issues the proclamation described in Section 20A-7-310.

303 [(3)] (4) A law submitted to the people by referendum that is approved by the voters at an
304 election takes effect the later of:

- 305 (a) five days after the date of the official proclamation of the vote by the governor; or
306 (b) the effective date specified in the approved law.

307 [(4)] (5) If, after the lieutenant governor issues a temporary stay order under Subsection [
308 (1)(a)] (2)(a), the lieutenant governor declares the referendum petition insufficient, the
309 law that is the subject of the referendum petition takes effect the later of:

- 310 (a) five days after the day on which the lieutenant governor declares the referendum
311 petition insufficient; or
312 (b) the effective date specified in the law that is the subject of the referendum petition.

313 [(5)] (6)(a) The governor may not veto a law approved by the people.

- 314 (b) The Legislature may amend any laws approved by the people at any legislative
315 session after the people approve the law.

316 [(6)] (7) If the Legislature repeals a law challenged by referendum petition under this part,
317 the referendum petition is void and no further action on the referendum petition is
318 required.

319 Section 4. Section **20A-7-705** is amended to read:

320 **20A-7-705 . Measures to be submitted to voters and referendum measures --**

321 **Preparation of argument of adoption.**

322 (1)(a) Whenever the Legislature submits any measure to the voters or whenever an act of
323 the Legislature is referred to the voters by referendum petition, the presiding officer
324 of the house of origin of the measure shall appoint the sponsor of the measure or act
325 and one member of either house who voted with the majority to pass the act or
326 submit the measure to draft an argument for the adoption of the measure.

327 (b)(i) The argument may not exceed 500 words in length, not counting the
328 information described in Subsection (4)(e).

329 (ii) If the sponsor of the measure or act desires separate arguments to be written in
330 favor by each person appointed, separate arguments may be written but the
331 combined length of the two arguments may not exceed 500 words, not counting
332 the information described in Subsection (4)(e).

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

- 337 write an argument against the measure or act.
- 338 (b)(i) The argument may not exceed 500 words, not counting the information
339 described in Subsection (4)(e).
- 340 (ii) If those members appointed to write an argument against the measure or act
341 desire separate arguments to be written in opposition to the measure or act by each
342 person appointed, separate arguments may be written, but the combined length of
343 the two arguments may not exceed 500 words, not counting the information
344 described in Subsection (4)(e).
- 345 (3)(a) The legislators appointed by the presiding officer of the Senate or House of
346 Representatives to submit arguments shall submit the arguments to the lieutenant
347 governor not later than the day that falls [~~150~~] 130 days before the date of the election.
- 348 (b) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(d), the authors may not amend or change the
349 arguments after they are submitted to the lieutenant governor.
- 350 (c) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(d), the lieutenant governor may not alter the
351 arguments in any way.
- 352 (d) The lieutenant governor and the authors of an argument may jointly modify an
353 argument after it is submitted if:
- 354 (i) they jointly agree that changes to the argument must be made to correct spelling or
355 grammatical errors; and
- 356 (ii) the argument has not yet been submitted for typesetting.
- 357 (4)(a) If an argument for or an argument against a measure submitted to the voters by the
358 Legislature or by referendum petition has not been filed by a member of the
359 Legislature within the time required by this section:
- 360 (i) the lieutenant governor shall immediately:
- 361 (A) send an electronic notice that complies with the requirements of Subsection
362 (4)(b) to each individual in the state for whom the Office of the Lieutenant
363 Governor has an email address; or
- 364 (B) post a notice that complies with the requirements of Subsection (4)(b) on the
365 home page of the lieutenant governor's website; and
- 366 (ii) any voter may, before 5 p.m. no later than seven days after the day on which the
367 lieutenant governor provides the notice described in Subsection (4)(a)(i), submit a
368 written request to the presiding officer of the house in which the measure
369 originated for permission to prepare and file an argument for the side on which no
370 argument has been filed by a member of the Legislature.

- 371 (b) A notice described in Subsection (4)(a)(i) shall contain:
- 372 (i) the ballot title for the measure;
- 373 (ii) instructions on how to submit a request under Subsection (4)(a)(ii); and
- 374 (iii) the deadlines described in Subsections (4)(a)(ii) and (4)(d).
- 375 (c)(i) The presiding officer of the house of origin shall grant permission unless two or
- 376 more voters timely request permission to submit arguments on the same side of a
- 377 measure.
- 378 (ii) If two or more voters timely request permission to submit arguments on the same
- 379 side of a measure, the presiding officer shall, no later than four calendar days after
- 380 the day of the deadline described in Subsection (4)(a)(ii), designate one of the
- 381 voters to write the argument.
- 382 (d) Any argument prepared under this Subsection (4) shall be submitted to the lieutenant
- 383 governor before 5 p.m. no later than seven days after the day on which the presiding
- 384 officer grants permission to submit the argument.
- 385 (e) The lieutenant governor may not accept a ballot argument submitted under this
- 386 section unless the ballot argument lists:
- 387 (i) the name and address of the individual submitting the argument, if the argument is
- 388 submitted by an individual voter; or
- 389 (ii) the name and address of the organization and the names and addresses of at least
- 390 two of the organization's principal officers, if the argument is submitted on behalf
- 391 of an organization.
- 392 (f) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(h), the authors may not amend or change the
- 393 arguments after they are submitted to the lieutenant governor.
- 394 (g) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(h), the lieutenant governor may not alter the
- 395 arguments in any way.
- 396 (h) The lieutenant governor and the authors of an argument may jointly modify an
- 397 argument after it is submitted if:
- 398 (i) they jointly agree that changes to the argument must be made to:
- 399 (A) correct spelling or grammatical errors; or
- 400 (B) properly characterize the position of a state entity, if the argument
- 401 mischaracterizes the position of a state entity; and
- 402 (ii) the argument has not yet been submitted for typesetting.
- 403 (i) If, after the lieutenant governor determines that an argument described in this section
- 404 mischaracterizes the position of a state entity, the lieutenant governor and the authors

405 of the argument cannot jointly agree on a change to the argument, the lieutenant
406 governor:

407 (i) shall publish the argument with the mischaracterization; and

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

410 Section 5. Section **20A-7-706** is amended to read:

411 **20A-7-706 . Copies of arguments to be sent to opposing authors -- Rebuttal**
412 **arguments.**

413 (1) When the lieutenant governor has received the arguments for and against a measure to
414 be submitted to the voters, the lieutenant governor shall immediately send copies of the
415 arguments in favor of the measure to the authors of the arguments against and copies of
416 the arguments against to the authors of the arguments in favor.

417 (2) The authors may prepare and submit rebuttal arguments not exceeding 250 words, not
418 counting the information described in Subsection 20A-7-705(4)(e).

419 (3)(a) The rebuttal arguments shall be filed with the lieutenant governor:

420 (i) for constitutional amendments and referendum petitions, before 5 p.m. no later
421 than [~~120~~] 100 days before the date of the election; and

422 (ii) for initiatives, before 5 p.m. no later than July 30.

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

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

427 (d) The lieutenant governor and the authors of a rebuttal argument may jointly modify a
428 rebuttal argument after it is submitted if:

429 (i) they jointly agree that changes to the rebuttal argument must be made to correct
430 spelling or grammatical errors; and

431 (ii) the rebuttal argument has not yet been submitted for typesetting.

432 (4) The lieutenant governor shall ensure that:

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

434 (b) each rebuttal argument follows immediately after the direct argument which it seeks
435 to rebut.

436 Section 6. **Effective Date.**

437 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.