

By Senators Atwater and Smith

25-1847-04

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to constitutional amendments
3 proposed by initiative; amending s. 100.371,
4 F.S.; providing a deadline by which the
5 supervisors of elections must verify the
6 validity of signatures submitted in support of
7 a citizen initiative to amend the State
8 Constitution; requiring the Secretary of State
9 to conduct public hearings on constitutional
10 amendments proposed by initiative; providing an
11 effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 100.371, Florida
16 Statutes, is amended, present subsections (6) and (7) of that
17 section are redesignated as subsections (7) and (8),
18 respectively, and a new subsection (6) is added to that
19 section, to read:

20 100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on
21 ballot.--

22 (4) The sponsor shall submit signed and dated forms to
23 the appropriate supervisor of elections for verification as to
24 the number of registered electors whose valid signatures
25 appear thereon. The supervisor shall ~~promptly~~ verify the
26 signatures within 60 days after the ~~upon~~ payment of the fee or
27 the filing of the oath claiming an undue burden required by s.
28 99.097. Upon completion of verification, the supervisor shall
29 execute a certificate indicating the total number of
30 signatures checked, the number of signatures verified as valid
31 and as being of registered electors, and the distribution by

1 congressional district. This certificate shall be immediately
2 transmitted to the Secretary of State. The supervisor shall
3 retain the signature forms for at least 1 year following the
4 election in which the issue appeared on the ballot or until
5 the Division of Elections notifies the supervisors of
6 elections that the committee which circulated the petition is
7 no longer seeking to obtain ballot position.

8 (6) At least 90 days prior to the general election,
9 the Secretary of State shall conduct a public hearing in each
10 congressional district on all constitutional amendments
11 proposed by initiative which have been certified for ballot
12 position. The Secretary of State shall publish notice of the
13 public hearing in one newspaper of general circulation in the
14 most populous municipality in each congressional district at
15 least 30 days prior to the hearing.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2005.

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Requires the supervisors of elections to verify the
21 validity of signatures submitted in support of a citizen
22 initiative to amend the State Constitution within 60 days
23 after submission. Requires the Secretary of State to
24 conduct a public hearing on constitutional amendments
25 proposed by initiative in each congressional district.
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