

By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senators Atwater and Smith

313-2517-04

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 proposed
10 amendments or revisions to the State
11 Constitution; providing an effective date.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
15 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 100.371, Florida
16 Statutes, is amended to read:

17 100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on
18 ballot.--

19 (4) The sponsor shall submit signed and dated forms to
20 the appropriate supervisor of elections for verification as to
21 the number of registered electors whose valid signatures
22 appear thereon. The supervisor shall ~~promptly~~ verify the
23 signatures within 60 days after the ~~upon~~ payment of the fee or
24 the filing of the oath claiming an undue burden required by s.
25 99.097. Upon completion of verification, the supervisor shall
26 execute a certificate indicating the total number of
27 signatures checked, the number of signatures verified as valid
28 and as being of registered electors, and the distribution by
29 congressional district. This certificate shall be immediately
30 transmitted to the Secretary of State. The supervisor shall
31 retain the signature forms for at least 1 year following the

1 election in which the issue appeared on the ballot or until
2 the Division of Elections notifies the supervisors of
3 elections that the committee which circulated the petition is
4 no longer seeking to obtain ballot position.

5 Section 2. At least 60 days prior to the election on a
6 proposed amendment or revision to the State Constitution, the
7 Secretary of State shall conduct a public hearing in each
8 congressional district on the proposed constitutional
9 amendment or revision. The Secretary of State shall publish
10 notice of the public hearing in one newspaper of general
11 circulation in the most populous municipality in each
12 congressional district at least 14 days prior to the hearing.

13 Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2005.

14
15 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
17 Senate Bill 2920

18 The committee substitute differs from the original bill in
19 that public hearings on amendments or revisions to the State
20 Constitution must be held at least 60 days prior to the
21 election and that publication of notice of the public hearing
22 must occur at least 14 days prior to the hearing.
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31