Bill No. HB 1471

Amendment No. (for drafter's use only)

## CHAMBER ACTION

Senate House

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Representative(s) Goodlette and Jennings offered the following:

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## Amendment (with title amendment)

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Remove line(s) 74-659 and insert:

<u>ballot placement for an issue must be verified by the method</u>

provided in paragraph (a).

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(3)(a) A <u>signature name</u> on a petition, <u>in a which</u> name <u>that</u> is not in substantially the same form as a name on the voter registration books, shall be counted as a valid signature if, after comparing the signature on the petition with the signature of the alleged signer as shown on the registration books, the supervisor determines that the person signing the petition and the person who registered to vote are one and the same. In any situation in which this code requires the form of the petition to be prescribed by the division, no signature

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shall be counted toward the number of signatures required unless it is on a petition form prescribed by the division. A signature on a petition may not be counted toward the number of valid signatures required for ballot placement unless all relevant provisions of this code have been satisfied.

- (b) If a voter signs a petition and lists an address other than the legal residence where the voter is registered, the supervisor shall treat the signature as if the voter had listed the address where the voter is registered.
- (4)(a) The supervisor shall be paid in advance the sum of 10 cents for each signature checked or the actual cost of checking such signature, whichever is less, by the candidate or, in the case of a petition to have an issue placed on the ballot, by the person or organization submitting the petition. However, if a candidate, person, or organization seeking to have an issue placed upon the ballot cannot pay such charges without imposing an undue burden on personal resources or upon the resources otherwise available to such candidate, person, or organization, such candidate, person, or organization shall, upon written certification of such inability given under oath to the supervisor, be entitled to have the signatures verified at no charge. In the event a candidate, person, or organization submitting a petition to have an issue placed upon the ballot is entitled to have the signatures verified at no charge, the supervisor of elections of each county in which the signatures are verified at no charge shall submit the total number of such signatures checked in the county to the Chief Financial Officer

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no later than December 1 of the general election year, and the Chief Financial Officer shall cause such supervisor of elections to be reimbursed from the General Revenue Fund in an amount equal to 10 cents for each <u>signature</u> name checked or the actual cost of checking such signatures, whichever is less. In no event shall such reimbursement of costs be deemed or applied as extra compensation for the supervisor. Petitions shall be retained by the supervisors for a period of 1 year following the election for which the petitions were circulated.

- (b) A person or organization submitting a petition to secure ballot placement for an issue which has filed a certification of undue burden may not provide compensation to any paid petition circulator, as defined in s. 100.372, unless the person or organization first pays all supervisors for each signature checked or reimburses the General Revenue Fund for such costs. If a person or organization subject to this paragraph provides compensation to a paid petition circulator before the date the person or organization pays all supervisors for each signature checked or reimburses the General Revenue Fund for such costs, no signature on a petition circulated by the petition circulator before that date may be counted toward the number of valid signatures required for ballot placement.
- (6)(a) The alleged improper verification of a signature on a petition to secure ballot placement for an issue pursuant to this code may be contested in the circuit court by a political committee or by an elector. The contestant shall file a complaint setting forth the basis of the contest, together with

- the fees prescribed in chapter 28, with the clerk of the circuit court in the county in which the petition is certified or in Leon County if the complaint is directed to petitions certified in more than one county.
- (b) If the contestant demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that one or more petitions were improperly verified, the signatures appearing on such petitions may not be counted toward the number of valid signatures required for ballot placement. If an action brought under this subsection is resolved after the Secretary of State has issued a certificate of ballot position for the issue, but the contestant demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the person or organization submitting the petition had obtained verification of an insufficient number of valid and verified signatures to qualify for ballot placement, the issue shall be removed from the ballot or, if such action is impractical, any votes cast for or against the issue may not be counted and shall be invalidated.
- (c) An action under this subsection must be commenced not later than 90 days after the Secretary of State issues a certificate of ballot position for the issue.
- Section 3. Section 100.371, Florida Statutes, as amended by section 9 of chapter 2002-281, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:
  - 100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.--
- (1) Constitutional amendments proposed by initiative shall be placed on the ballot for the general election provided that

- an initiative petition is filed with the Secretary of State by February 1 of the year in which the general election is to be <a href="held">held</a> occurring in excess of 90 days from the certification of ballot position by the Secretary of State.
- when the Secretary of State has received verification certificates from the supervisors of elections indicating that the requisite number and distribution of valid petitions bearing the signatures of electors have been submitted to and verified by the supervisors. Every signature shall be dated by the elector when made. Signatures are and shall be valid for a period of 4 years following such date, provided all other requirements of law are satisfied complied with.
- (3) The sponsor of an initiative amendment shall, prior to obtaining any signatures, register as a political committee pursuant to s. 106.03 and submit the text of the proposed amendment to the Secretary of State, with the form on which the signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the approval of the Secretary of State of such form. The <u>division Secretary of State</u> shall adopt rules pursuant to s. 120.54 prescribing the style and requirements of such form. Upon filing with the Secretary of State, the text of the proposed amendment and all forms filed in connection with this section must, upon request, be made available in alternative formats. The contents of a petition form shall be limited to those items required by statute or rule. A petition form shall be deemed a political advertisement

- as defined in s. 106.011 and, as such, must comply with all relevant requirements of chapter 106.
  - (4) The supervisor of elections shall record the date each petition form was received by the supervisor and the date the signature on the form was verified as valid. The supervisor shall verify that the signature on a petition form is valid only if the form complies with all of the following:
  - (a) The form must contain the original signature of the purported elector;
  - (b) The purported elector must accurately record on the form the date on which he or she signed the form;
  - (c) The form must accurately set forth the purported elector's name, street address, county, voter registration number or date of birth, and any other information required by the division by rule;
  - (d) The purported elector must be, at the time he or she signs the form, a duly qualified and registered elector authorized to vote in the county for which his or her signature is submitted;
  - (e) The date the elector signed the form, as recorded by the elector, must be no more than 45 days from the date the form was received by the supervisor of elections;
  - (f) The elector must accurately record on the form whether the elector was presented with the petition form for his or her signature by a petition circulator, as defined in s. 100.372(1); and

- (g) If the elector was presented with the petition form for his or her signature by a petition circulator, the petition form must comply with the requirements of s. 100.372.
- (5) An elector has the right to submit his or her signed form to the sponsor of the initiative amendment, by mail or otherwise, at an address listed on the form for this purpose.
- (6) Each form must contain the following three notices at the top of the form in bold type and in a 16-point or larger font, immediately following the title "Constitutional Amendment Petition Form":

RIGHT TO MAIL-IN - You have the right to take this petition home and study the issue before signing. If you choose to sign the petition, you may return it to the sponsors of the amendment at the following address:

PAID PETITION CIRCULATOR - The person presenting this petition for your signature may be receiving compensation to do so. You have the right to ask for this information and the person's rate of compensation before you sign the petition.

NATURE OF AMENDMENT - The merits of the proposed change to the Florida Constitution appearing below have not been officially reviewed by any court or agency of state government.

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(7)<del>(4)</del> The sponsor shall submit signed and dated forms to the appropriate supervisor of elections for verification as to the number of registered electors whose valid signatures appear thereon. The supervisor shall promptly verify the signatures upon payment of the fee required by s. 99.097. Upon completion of verification, the supervisor shall execute a certificate indicating the total number of signatures checked, the number of signatures verified as valid and as being of registered electors, and the distribution of such signatures by congressional district. This certificate shall be immediately transmitted to the Secretary of State. The supervisor shall retain the signed signature forms for at least 1 year following the election in which the issue appeared on the ballot or until the Division of Elections notifies the supervisors of elections that the committee which circulated the petition is no longer seeking to obtain ballot position.

(8)(5) The Secretary of State shall determine from the verification certificates received from supervisors of elections the total number of verified valid signatures and the distribution of such signatures by congressional districts. Upon a determination that the requisite number and distribution of valid signatures have been obtained, the secretary shall issue a certificate of ballot position for that proposed amendment and shall assign a designating number pursuant to s. 101.161. A petition shall be deemed to be filed with the Secretary of State upon the date of the receipt by the secretary of a certificate

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or certificates from supervisors of elections indicating the petition has been signed by the constitutionally required number of electors.

- (9)(6)(a) Within 45 days after receipt of a proposed revision or amendment to the State Constitution by initiative petition from the Secretary of State or, within 30 days after such receipt if receipt occurs 120 days or less before the election at which the question of ratifying the amendment will be presented, the Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall complete an analysis and financial impact statement to be placed on the ballot of the estimated increase or decrease in any revenues or costs to state or local governments resulting from the proposed initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall submit the financial impact statement to the Attorney General and Secretary of State.
- (b)1. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall provide an opportunity for any proponents or opponents of the initiative to submit information and may solicit information or analysis from any other entities or agencies, including the Office of Economic and Demographic Research. All meetings of the Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall be open to the public as provided in chapter 286.
- 2. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference is established to review, analyze, and estimate the financial impact of amendments to or revisions of the State Constitution proposed by initiative. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall consist of four principals: one person from the

- Executive Office of the Governor; the coordinator of the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, or his or her designee; one person from the professional staff of the Senate; and one person from the professional staff of the House of Representatives. Each principal shall have appropriate fiscal expertise in the subject matter of the initiative. A Financial Impact Estimating Conference may be appointed for each initiative.
- 3. Principals of the Financial Impact Estimating
  Conference shall reach a consensus or majority concurrence on a
  clear and unambiguous financial impact statement, no more than
  75 words in length, and immediately submit the statement to the
  Attorney General. Nothing in this subsection prohibits the
  Financial Impact Estimating Conference from setting forth a
  range of potential impacts in the financial impact statement.
  Any financial impact statement that a court finds not to be in
  accordance with this section shall be remanded solely to the
  Financial Impact Estimating Conference for redrafting. The
  Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall redraft the
  financial impact statement within 15 days.
- 4. If the members of the Financial Impact Estimating Conference are unable to agree on the statement required by this subsection, or if the Supreme Court has rejected the initial submission by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference and no redraft has been approved by the Supreme Court by April 1 of the year in which the general election is to be held 5 p.m. on the 75th day before the election, the following statement shall

appear on the ballot pursuant to s. 101.161(1): "The financial impact of this measure, if any, cannot be reasonably determined at this time."

- (c) The financial impact statement must be separately contained and be set forth after the ballot summary as required in s. 101.161(1).
- (d)1. Any financial impact statement that the Supreme Court finds not to be in accordance with this subsection shall be remanded solely to the Financial Impact Estimating Conference for redrafting, provided the court's advisory opinion is rendered by April 1 of the year in which the general election is to be held at least 75 days before the election at which the question of ratifying the amendment will be presented. The Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall prepare and adopt a revised financial impact statement no later than 5 p.m. on the 15th day after the date of the court's opinion.
- 2. If, by 5 p.m. on April 1 of the year in which the general election is to be held the 75th day before the election, the Supreme Court has not issued an advisory opinion on the initial financial impact statement prepared by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference for an initiative amendment that otherwise meets the legal requirements for ballot placement, the financial impact statement shall be deemed approved for placement on the ballot.
- 3. In addition to the financial impact statement required by this subsection, the Financial Impact Estimating Conference shall draft an initiative financial information statement. The

initiative financial information statement should describe in greater detail than the financial impact statement any projected increase or decrease in revenues or costs that the state or local governments would likely experience if the ballot measure were approved. If appropriate, the initiative financial information statement may include both estimated dollar amounts and a description placing the estimated dollar amounts into context. The initiative financial information statement must include both a summary of not more than 500 words and additional detailed information that includes the assumptions that were made to develop the financial impacts, workpapers, and any other information deemed relevant by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference.

- 4. The Department of State shall have printed, and shall furnish to each supervisor of elections, a copy of the summary from the initiative financial information statements. The supervisors shall have the summary from the initiative financial information statements available at each polling place and at the main office of the supervisor of elections upon request.
- 5. The Secretary of State and the Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall make available on the Internet each initiative financial information statement in its entirety. In addition, each supervisor of elections whose office has a website shall post the summary from each initiative financial information statement on the website. Each supervisor shall include the Internet addresses for the information statements on the Secretary of State's and the Office of Economic and

- Demographic Research's websites in the publication or mailing required by s. 101.20.
  - $\underline{(10)}$  (7) The Department of State may adopt rules in accordance with s. 120.54 to carry out this section the provisions of subsections (1)-(6).
  - Section 4. Section 100.372, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
    - 100.372 Regulation of initiative petition circulators. --
    - (1) For purposes of this section, a:
    - (a) "Petition circulator" is any person who, in the context of a direct face-to-face conversation, presents to another person for his or her possible signature a petition form regarding ballot placement for an initiative.
    - (b) "Paid petition circulator" is a petition circulator who receives any compensation as either a direct or indirect consequence of the activities described in paragraph (a).
    - (2) A petition circulator must be, at the time the petition circulator presents to any person for his or her possible signature a petition form regarding ballot placement for an initiative, at least 18 years of age and eligible to register to vote in this state pursuant to s. 97.041.
    - (3) A paid petition circulator shall, when engaged in the activities described in paragraph (1)(a), wear a prominent badge, in a form and manner prescribed by rule by the division, identifying him or her as a "PAID PETITION CIRCULATOR."

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- (4) In addition to any other practice or action permissible under law, an owner, lessee, or other person lawfully exercising control over private property may:
- (a) Uniformly prohibit petition circulators from operating on the property and uniformly prohibit persons from engaging in other activities supporting or opposing an initiative; or
- (b) Permit such conduct on the property subject to time, place, and manner restrictions that are reasonable and uniformly applied.
- (5) Prior to being presented to a possible elector for signature, a petition form regarding ballot placement for an initiative must set forth the following information in a format and manner prescribed by rule by the division:
- (a) The name of any organization or entity with which the petition circulator is affiliated and on behalf of which the petition circulator is presenting forms to electors for possible signature.
- (b) The name of the sponsor of the initiative if different from the entity with which the petition circulator is affiliated.
- (c) A statement directing those seeking information about initiative sponsors and their contributors to the Internet address of the appropriate division website; and
- (d) A statement disclosing whether the petition circulator is a paid petition circulator, and, if so, the amount or rate of compensation and the name and address of the person or entity paying the compensation to the paid petition circulator.

- (6)(a) A paid petition circulator shall attach to each signed petition form or group of petition forms obtained by the paid petition circulator a signed, notarized, and dated affidavit executed by the paid petition circulator in a form prescribed by rule by the division. If the affidavit pertains to a group of forms, the forms shall be consecutively numbered on their face by the paid petition circulator and the affidavit shall refer to the forms by number.
- (b) The affidavit shall include the paid petition circulator's printed name; the street address at which he or she resides, including county; the petition circulator's date of birth; the petition circulator's Florida voter registration number and county of registration, if applicable, or an identification number from a valid government-issued photo identification card along with information identifying the issuer; and the date he or she signed the affidavit.
- (c) The affidavit shall attest that the paid petition circulator has read and understands the laws governing the circulation of petition forms regarding ballot placement for an initiative; that he or she was 18 years of age and eligible to register to vote at the time the attached form or forms were circulated and signed by the listed electors; that he or she circulated the attached form or forms; that each signature thereon was affixed in the circulator's presence; that to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief each signature thereon is the signature of the person whose name it purports to be; that to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief

each of the persons signing the form or forms was, at the time of signing, a registered elector; that the circulator has not provided or received, and will not in the future provide or receive, compensation that is based, directly or indirectly, upon the number of signatures obtained on petitions; and that he or she has not paid or will not in the future pay, and that he or she believes that no other person has paid or will pay, directly or indirectly, any money or other thing of value to any signer for the purpose of inducing or causing such signer to affix his or her signature to the form.

- (d) A signature on a petition form regarding ballot placement for an initiative to which an affidavit required by this subsection is not attached is invalid, may not be verified by the supervisor of elections, and may not be counted toward the number of valid signatures required for ballot placement.
- (7) Each paid petition circulator shall provide to the sponsor of the initiative amendment for which he or she is circulating petitions a copy of a valid and current government-issued photo identification card that accurately indicates the address at which the paid petition circulator resides. The sponsor of the initiative shall maintain the copies of these identification cards in its files and shall make them available for inspection by the division, a supervisor of elections, or any law enforcement agency. If a sponsor fails to maintain such a copy with respect to a particular paid petition circulator, all petitions obtained by that paid petition circulator prior to the date the sponsor produces the required copy of the

identification card are invalid, may not be verified by the supervisor of elections, and may not be counted toward the number of valid signatures required for ballot placement.

- (8) A signature on a petition form regarding ballot placement for an initiative which does not fully comply with the applicable provisions of this chapter, or which was obtained in violation of the applicable provisions of this code, is invalid, may not be verified by the supervisor of elections, and may not be counted toward the number of valid signatures required for ballot placement.
- Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 101.161, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- (1) Whenever a constitutional amendment or other public measure is submitted to the vote of the people, the substance of such amendment or other public measure shall be printed in clear and unambiguous language on the ballot after the list of candidates, followed by the word "yes" and also by the word "no," and shall be styled in such a manner that a "yes" vote will indicate approval of the proposal and a "no" vote will indicate rejection. The wording of the substance of the amendment or other public measure and the ballot title to appear on the ballot shall be embodied in the joint resolution, constitutional revision commission proposal, constitutional convention proposal, taxation and budget reform commission proposal, or enabling resolution or ordinance. Except for amendments and ballot language proposed by joint resolution, the substance of the amendment or other public measure shall be an

explanatory statement, not exceeding 75 words in length, of the chief purpose of the measure. In addition, for every amendment proposed by initiative, the ballot shall include, following the ballot summary, a separate financial impact statement concerning the measure prepared by the Financial Impact Estimating Conference in accordance with s.  $100.371\underline{(9)(6)}$ . The ballot title shall consist of a caption, not exceeding 15 words in length, by which the measure is commonly referred to or spoken of.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 101.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.62 Request for absentee ballots.--

(4)(a) To each absent qualified elector overseas who has requested an absentee ballot, the supervisor of elections shall, not fewer than 35 days before the first primary election, mail an absentee ballot. Not fewer than 45 days before the second primary and general election, the supervisor of elections shall mail an advance absentee ballot to those persons requesting ballots for such elections. The advance absentee ballot for the second primary shall be the same as the first primary absentee ballot as to the names of candidates, except that for any offices where there are only two candidates, those offices and all political party executive committee offices shall be omitted. Except as provided in ss. 99.063(4) and  $100.371(9) \frac{(6)}{(6)}$ , the advance absentee ballot for the general election shall be as specified in s. 101.151, except that in the case of candidates of political parties where nominations were not made in the first primary, the names of the candidates placing first and

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second in the first primary election shall be printed on the advance absentee ballot. The advance absentee ballot or advance 472 absentee ballot information booklet shall be of a different 473 color for each election and also a different color from the 475 absentee ballots for the first primary, second primary, and general election. The supervisor shall mail an advance absentee 477 ballot for the second primary and general election to each qualified absent elector for whom a request is received until the absentee ballots are printed. The supervisor shall enclose with the advance second primary absentee ballot and advance general election absentee ballot an explanation stating that the absentee ballot for the election will be mailed as soon as it is printed; and, if both the advance absentee ballot and the absentee ballot for the election are returned in time to be counted, only the absentee ballot will be counted. The Department of State may prescribe by rule the requirements for preparing and mailing absentee ballots to absent qualified electors overseas.

Section 7. Subsection (5) is added to section 104.012, Florida Statutes, to read:

104.012 Consideration for registration; interference with registration; soliciting registrations for compensation; alteration of registration application; failing to submit registration application. --

(5) Any person who obtains an executed voter registration application from another person and who willfully fails to submit this application to the appropriate supervisor of

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- elections within 10 days commits a felony of the third degree,
  punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- Section 8. Section 104.185, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 104.185 <u>Violations involving</u> petitions; <u>knowingly signing</u> more than once; <u>signing another person's name or a fictitious</u> name.--
  - (1) A person who knowingly signs a petition or petitions to secure ballot position for a candidate, a minor political party, or an issue more than one time commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, upon any subsequent conviction, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
  - (2) A person who signs another person's name or a fictitious name to any petition to secure ballot position for a candidate, a minor political party, or an issue commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, upon any subsequent conviction, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
  - (3) A person who willfully swears or affirms falsely to any oath or affirmation, or willfully procures another person to swear or affirm falsely to an oath or affirmation, in connection with or arising out of the petitioning process commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, upon any subsequent conviction,

commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

- (4) A person who willfully submits any false information on a petition commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, upon any subsequent conviction, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (5) A person who directly or indirectly gives or promises anything of value to any other person to induce that other person to sign a petition commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, upon any subsequent conviction, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (6) A person who, by bribery, menace, threat, or other corruption, directly or indirectly influences, deceives, or deters, or attempts to influence, deceive, or deter, any person in the free exercise of that person's right to sign a petition, upon the first conviction commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, upon any subsequent conviction, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
- (7) A person may not provide or receive compensation that is based, directly or indirectly, upon the number of signatures obtained on petitions. A person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as

- provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, upon any subsequent conviction, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
  - (8) A person who alters the petition signed by any other person without the other person's knowledge and consent commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083 and, upon any subsequent conviction, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
  - (9) A person perpetrating, or attempting to perpetrate or aid in the perpetration of, any fraud in connection with obtaining the signature of electors on petitions commits a misdemeanor of the first degree,

Remove line(s) 4-20 and insert:

certain petitions to be verified by a certain method;

requiring certain provisions to be satisfied before a

signature on a petition may be counted; prohibiting

signature on a petition may be counted; prohibiting compensation to any paid petition circulator in certain circumstances; providing the procedure to contest and resolve the alleged improper verification of certain signatures; amending s. 100.371, F.S.; revising requirements for placement of constitutional amendments proposed by initiative on the ballot for the general election; revising and providing rulemaking authority; providing limitations on the contents of a petition form;

## HOUSE AMENDMENT

Bill No. HB 1471

## Amendment No. (for drafter's use only)

579	establishing compliance criteria for petition forms;
580	providing an elector's right to mail or deliver the form
581	to an address provided for that purpose; providing notices
582	that must be contained in each petition form;

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