

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to initiatives; amending s. 100.371, F.S.;
 3 providing that petition signatures are valid for 2 years;
 4 requiring background screening for persons gathering
 5 signatures on initiative petitions; providing that
 6 supervisors shall verify signatures only if signed within
 7 a specified period; providing for severability; providing
 8 an effective date.

9
 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
 12 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 100.371, Florida
 13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 100.371 Initiatives; procedure for placement on ballot.--

15 (3) Each signature shall be dated when made and shall be
 16 valid for a period of 2 4 years following such date, provided
 17 all other requirements of law are met. The sponsor shall submit
 18 signed and dated forms to the appropriate supervisor of
 19 elections for verification as to the number of registered
 20 electors whose valid signatures appear thereon. The Secretary of
 21 State shall require certification of level 2 background
 22 screening, as provided in chapter 435, for employees or
 23 contractors of a sponsor who are in positions of trust due to
 24 regular contact with members of the general public for the
 25 purpose of obtaining signatures on petition forms. The
 26 supervisor shall promptly verify the signatures within 30 days
 27 of receipt of the petition forms and payment of the fee required
 28 by s. 99.097. The supervisor shall verify that the signature on

29 a form is valid only if the date the elector signed the form, as
 30 recorded by the elector, is no more than 60 days before the date
 31 the form is received by the supervisor. The supervisor shall
 32 promptly record in the statewide voter registration system, in
 33 the manner prescribed by the Secretary of State, the date each
 34 form is received by the supervisor, and the date the signature
 35 on the form is verified as valid. The supervisor may verify that
 36 the signature on a form is valid only if:

37 (a) The form contains the original signature of the
 38 purported elector.

39 (b) The purported elector has accurately recorded on the
 40 form the date on which he or she signed the form.

41 (c) The form accurately sets forth the purported elector's
 42 name, street address, county, and voter registration number or
 43 date of birth.

44 (d) The purported elector is, at the time he or she signs
 45 the form, a duly qualified and registered elector authorized to
 46 vote in the county in which his or her signature is submitted.

47
 48 The supervisor shall retain the signature forms for at least 1
 49 year following the election in which the issue appeared on the
 50 ballot or until the Division of Elections notifies the
 51 supervisors of elections that the committee which circulated the
 52 petition is no longer seeking to obtain ballot position.

53 Section 2. If any provision of this act or its application
 54 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity
 55 does not affect other provisions or applications of the act
 56 which can be given effect without the invalid provision or

CS/CS/HB 903

2008

57 application, and to this end the provisions of this act are
58 severable.

59 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.