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Legislative Council Staff
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Colorado Revised Statutes 1-40-137. **PETITION RIGHTS**

Section 1. Procedures. (1) Petition rights shall exist in all districts. Any secretary of state or county election office in the district shall handle any state or local petition. Draft reviews shall be held four days after state initiatives begin. Ballot titles, up to 60 words in plain English, shall be set the next week. All protests of ballot titles, and to enforce the state single subject rule, *which remains in effect*, shall be filed in the supreme court *only*, and *only* two days after setting, and decided six days later. Only timely court decisions may reset ballot titles and remove subjects. Sample petition sections shall be delivered four days later, adapting 1992 forms. Any adult may circulate or file any petition.

(2) Required entries shall be 5% of active district registered electors, up to 120,000 entries at first. Constitutional amendment entries may increase 9,000 every four years and shall remain 50% more than statutory entries. Entry lines list only printed name, signature, registered elector residence address in the district, and town, city, or county. Random or statistical entry sampling is inadmissible. Affidavit defects shall not invalidate entries.

(3) Local entries shall be filed by 180 days, and state entries by 365 days, after sample petition section delivery. In 10 days, neutral election offices shall count and report entries. Two days later, filers and foes may protest in the supreme court only. Reports shall issue 10 days later. Signers shall be presumed truly addressed district registered electors. Invalidity starts one 15-day cure filing period per petition, with two days each for reporting and supreme court filing.

(4) Entries first filed by 92 days before any November election shall apply to ballot issues *on any topics*. Entries first filed later shall apply in the next election. Election notice comments shall always apply. Ballots shall print one filer and one foe website, each listed by August 2. *No petition changes any law; it only gives citizens the Right to Vote.*

Section 2. Referendum petitions. Only nine bills and one budget may be state petition-exempt yearly. Sufficient statutory entries filed by 90 days after the session ends shall further delay effective dates until elections. Ballot titles shall read, "Shall (listed sections of) (bill number) be rejected?" Later bills on rejected topics require voter approval.

Section 3. Definitions. (1) Districts: the state and all local and home rule governments and authorities.

(2) Petitions: initiatives or referenda on legislative policy, except zoning, begun by any two or more adults any time.

Section 4. Enforcement. This statute is an alternative to the existing petition process. Those who stop, detain, eject, cite, or arrest a circulator or signer for petitioning peaceably in public access areas shall be fined \$3,000. *Government hostility to petitions must cease.* Hearings may use telephones; court filings may use email. Changing any voter-approved petition requires voter approval of a petition. This statute shall be self-executing, severable, effective at once, and repeal all conflicting statutes.