



## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

# Fiscal Note

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<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 22-0495	<b>Date:</b>	January 24, 2022
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. Holtorf Sen. Sonnenberg	<b>Bill Status:</b>	House SCMVA
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**Bill Topic:** STATUTORY INITIATIVE PETITION SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

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**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure ( <i>conditional</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This concurrent resolution refers a measure to the 2022 ballot to change the petition signature requirements for citizen-initiated statutory changes. This potentially increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis starting in FY 2022-23.

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**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

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**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced resolution.

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## Summary of Legislation

To appear on the ballot, all citizen-initiated ballot measures must collect signatures statewide equal to at least five percent of the votes cast for the office of the Secretary of State at the last election. For citizen-initiated *constitutional* changes, proponents must also collect the signatures of at least two percent of registered voters in each state senate district. This concurrent resolution refers a measure to the 2022 ballot that applies the two-percent signature requirement in each state senate district to all citizen-initiated measures making *statutory* changes. If approved by at least 55 percent of the voters at the November 2022 general election, this concurrent resolution makes the petition signature requirement for statutory changes the same as the requirement for constitutional changes.

## State Expenditures

This concurrent resolution potentially increases costs for the Secretary of State's Office and the Department of Personnel and Administration. It also affects certain costs, funded through existing appropriations, that occur when any ballot measures are referred to voters by citizens or the General Assembly. These costs are described below.

**Signature review.** Increased costs for signature review are conditional; costs will only be incurred if the referred measure is approved by voters at the 2022 election. By applying the requirement to collect a specified number of signatures in each state senate district to statutory measures, this resolution may increase the number of citizen measures that require a manual review of petition signatures to ensure that the proper amount was collect both at the state level and in each state senate district. The exact costs will depend on the number of statutory measures in any given year, the number of signatures submitted, the rate of valid signatures, and other factors; these costs have not been estimated.

Costs for signature review will likely be cyclical, with more measures typically requiring review in even years and fewer in odd years, based on historical trends on when measures appear on the ballot. Should additional resources be required, the Secretary of State must seek additional resources through the annual budget process. The Secretary of State’s Office uses contract staff in the Department of Personnel and Administration to perform signature review.

**Election expenditure impact – existing appropriations.** This resolution refers a measure to appear before voters at the November 2022 general election. While no additional appropriation is required, certain election costs are incurred by the state when ballot measures are referred. These include reimbursing counties for increased election costs, publishing the text and title of the measure in newspapers across the state, and preparing and mailing the Blue Book.

## Effective Date

If approved by voters at the 2022 election, this measure takes effect upon proclamation of the Governor, no later than 30 days after the official canvass of the vote is completed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

County Clerks

Law

Personnel

Secretary of State