

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 531**

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
"Michigan election law,"
by amending sections 482, 590h, 685, 957, and 958 (MCL 168.482,
168.590h, 168.685, 168.957, and 168.958), section 482 as amended by
2018 PA 608, sections 590h and 685 as amended by 2018 PA 650, and
section 957 as amended by 2018 PA 120, and by adding sections 482f
and 547.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 482. (1) Each petition under this section must be 8-1/2
2 inches by 14 inches in size.
- 3 (2) If the measure to be submitted proposes a constitutional
4 amendment, initiation of legislation, or referendum of legislation,
5 the heading of each part of the petition must be prepared in the



following form and printed in capital letters in 14-point boldfaced type:

INITIATIVE PETITION
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION
OR
INITIATION OF LEGISLATION
OR
REFERENDUM OF LEGISLATION
PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

(3) A summary in not more than 100 words of the purpose of the proposed amendment or question proposed must follow and be printed in 12-point type. The full text of the amendment so proposed must follow the summary and be printed in 8-point type. If the proposal would alter or abrogate an existing provision of the constitution, the petition must so state and the provisions to be altered or abrogated must be inserted, preceded by the words:

"Provisions of existing constitution altered or abrogated by the proposal if adopted."

(4) The following statement must appear beneath the petition heading:

"We, the undersigned qualified and registered electors, **and** residents ~~in the _____ congressional district~~ ~~in~~ ~~of~~ the state of Michigan, respectively petition for (amendment to constitution) (initiation of legislation) (referendum of legislation) (other appropriate description).".

(5) The following warning must be printed in 12-point type immediately above the place for signatures, on each part of the petition:

WARNING



1 ~~A person~~**An individual** who knowingly ~~signs this petition more~~
 2 ~~than once,~~ signs a name other than ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** own
 3 **name,** signs ~~when if~~ not a qualified and registered elector, or sets
 4 opposite ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** signature on a petition, a
 5 date other than the actual date the signature was affixed, is
 6 violating the provisions of the Michigan election law.

7 (6) Subject to subsections (7) and (8), the remainder of the
 8 petition form must be as provided following the warning to electors
 9 signing the petition in section 544c(1). In addition, the petition
 10 must comply with the requirements of section 544c(2).

11 (7) Each petition under this section must provide at the top
 12 of the page check boxes and statements printed in 12-point type to
 13 clearly indicate whether the circulator of the petition is a paid
 14 signature gatherer or a volunteer signature gatherer.

15 (8) Each petition under this section must clearly indicate
 16 below the statement required under subsection (7) and be printed in
 17 12-point type that if the petition circulator does not comply with
 18 all of the requirements of this act for petition circulators, any
 19 signature obtained by that petition circulator on that petition is
 20 invalid and will not be counted.

21 **Sec. 482f. If a petition under section 482 contains the**
 22 **signature of the same elector 2 or more times, only the first valid**
 23 **signature of that elector shall be counted.**

24 **Sec. 547. If a nominating petition contains the signature of**
 25 **the same elector 2 or more times, only the first valid signature of**
 26 **that elector shall be counted.**

27 Sec. 590h. (1) A qualifying petition for a candidate without
 28 political party affiliation must be the same size and printed in
 29 the same type sizes as required in section 544c. The petition must



be in the following form:

QUALIFYING PETITION

(CANDIDATE WITHOUT PARTY AFFILIATION)

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified ~~voters~~**electors** of
the ~~city or township of, in the county of~~

~~(strike 1)~~

~~and~~ state of Michigan, nominate ~~—.....~~,

(Name of Candidate)

.....,

(Street Address or R.R.)

(City or Township)

as a candidate without party affiliation for the office of

..... in

(Title of Office and District)

order that the name of the candidate be placed without party
affiliation on the ballot for the election to be held on
the day of , 20.... .

WARNING

Whoever knowingly signs more petitions for the same office
than there are ~~persons~~**individuals** to be elected to the office or
signs a name other than ~~his or her~~**the individual's** own **name** is
violating the Michigan election law.

(2) The balance of the qualifying petition form must be
substantially as set forth in section 544c. A qualifying petition
for a candidate without party affiliation must not contain a
reference to a political party.

(3) An individual shall not knowingly sign more petitions for
the same office than there are ~~persons~~**individuals** to be elected to
the office. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of



1 a misdemeanor.

2 (4) An individual shall not do any of the following:

3 (a) Sign a qualifying petition with a name other than ~~his or~~
4 ~~her~~ **the individual's own name.**

5 (b) Make a false statement in a certificate on a qualifying
6 petition.

7 (c) If not a circulator, sign a qualifying petition as a
8 circulator.

9 (d) Sign a name as circulator other than ~~his or her~~ **the**
10 **individual's own name.**

11 (5) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (6), an
12 individual who violates subsection (4) is guilty of a misdemeanor
13 punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00, ~~or~~ imprisonment for
14 not more than 93 days, or both.

15 (6) An individual shall not sign a qualifying petition with
16 multiple names. An individual who violates this subsection is
17 guilty of a felony.

18 (7) If an individual signs a qualifying petition in violation
19 of this section, any signature by that individual on the petition
20 is invalid and must not be counted.

21 **(8) If a qualifying petition for a candidate without political**
22 **party affiliation contains the signature of the same elector 2 or**
23 **more times, only the first valid signature of that elector shall be**
24 **counted.**

25 Sec. 685. (1) The name of a candidate of a new political party
26 must not be printed ~~upon~~ **on** the official ballots of an election
27 unless the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee
28 of the party files with the secretary of state, not later than 4
29 p.m. of the one hundred-tenth day before the general November



election, a certificate signed by the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee bearing the name of the party, together with petitions bearing the signatures of registered and qualified electors equal to not less than 1% of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for governor at the last election in which a governor was elected. The petitions must be signed by at least 100 registered electors in each of at least 1/2 of the congressional districts of this state. All signatures on the petitions must be obtained not more than 180 days immediately before the date of filing.

(2) After the date on which a petition is filed, the secretary of state shall not accept additional petition sheets for that petition. The validity and authenticity of the signatures may be determined in the same manner as provided for initiative and referendum petitions in section 9 of article II of the state constitution of 1963. An official declaration of the sufficiency or insufficiency of a petition filed under this section must be made by the board of state canvassers not later than 60 days before the general November election.

(3) The petitions must be in substantially the following form:

PETITION TO FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY

We, the undersigned, duly registered electors of the
~~city, township of county of~~

~~(strike one)~~

state of Michigan, residing at the places set opposite our names, respectfully request the secretary of state, in accordance with section 685 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.685, to place the names of the candidates of the party on the



1 ballot at the election.

2 Warning: ~~A person~~ **An individual** who knowingly signs petitions
 3 to organize more than 1 new state political party ~~, signs a~~
 4 ~~petition to organize a new state political party more than once,~~ or
 5 signs a name other than ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** own **name** is
 6 violating the provisions of the Michigan election law.

7
 8
 9

10 (4) The balance of the petition form must be substantially as
 11 set forth in section 544c. The size of all organizing petitions
 12 must be 8-1/2 inches by 13 inches and must be printed in the
 13 following type sizes: The words "petition to form new political
 14 party" and the name of the proposed political party must be in 24-
 15 point boldface type; the word "warning" and the language contained
 16 in the warning must be in 12-point boldface type.

17 (5) Petitions circulated under this section may be circulated
 18 on a countywide basis. A petition that is circulated countywide
 19 must be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state.

20 (6) If the principal candidate of a political party receives a
 21 vote equal to less than 1% of the total number of votes cast for
 22 the successful candidate for the office of secretary of state at
 23 the last preceding general November election in which a secretary
 24 of state was elected, that political party shall not have the name
 25 of any candidate printed on the ballots at the next ensuing general
 26 November election, and a column must not be provided on the ballots
 27 for that party. A disqualified party may again qualify and have the
 28 names of ~~its~~ **that party's** candidates printed in a separate party
 29 column on each election ballot in the manner set forth in



subsection (1) for the qualification of new parties. As used in this subsection, "principal candidate of a political party" means the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes of all candidates of that political party for that election.

(7) A political party that complied with this section is subject to section 686a in order to have the name of that party and ~~its~~ **that party's** candidates appear on the general election ballot.

(8) An individual shall not knowingly sign a petition to organize more than 1 new state political party. ~~or sign a petition to organize a new state political party more than once.~~ An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(9) An individual shall not do any of the following:

(a) Sign a petition to form a new political party with a name other than ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** own **name**.

(b) Make a false statement in a certificate on a petition to form a new political party.

(c) If not a circulator, sign a petition to form a new political party as a circulator.

(d) Sign a name as circulator other than ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** own **name**.

(10) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (11), an individual who violates subsection (9) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00, ~~or~~ imprisonment for not more than 93 days, or both.

(11) An individual shall not sign a petition to form a new political party with multiple names. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a felony.

(12) If an individual signs a petition to form a new political party in violation of this section, any signature by that



individual on the petition is invalid and must not be counted.

(13) If a petition to form a new state political party contains the signature of the same elector 2 or more times, only the first valid signature of that elector shall be counted.

Sec. 957. (1) ~~A person~~ **An individual** circulating a recall petition ~~shall~~ **must** state in the certificate of circulator ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** residence address and that ~~he or she~~ **the individual** is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen. In addition, the certificate of circulator must indicate all of the following:

(a) That signatures appearing ~~upon~~ **on** the recall petition were not obtained through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. ~~and that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the recall petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the recall petition more than once.~~

(b) That all signatures to the recall petition were affixed in ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** presence.

(c) That, to the best of ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** knowledge, information, and belief, the signers of the recall petition are qualified and registered electors and the signatures appearing on the recall petition are the genuine signatures of the ~~persons~~ **individuals** signing the recall petition.

(2) ~~A person~~ **An individual** who knowingly makes a false statement in the certificate of circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 958. (1) A **recall** petition sheet ~~shall~~ **must** contain only the signatures of qualified and registered electors of the city or township listed in its heading.

(2) For recall of a village officer, the **recall** petition ~~shall~~



1 **must** be signed by qualified and registered electors of the village.

2 (3) A qualified and registered elector may sign the **recall**
3 petition sheet in any location at which the **recall** petition sheet
4 is available.

5 (4) A **recall** petition is not invalid if ~~it~~ **the recall petition**
6 contains the signature of ~~a person~~ **an individual** who is not a
7 qualified and registered elector of the appropriate city, township,
8 or village listed in the heading of that **recall** petition sheet.

9 (5) If a **recall petition** contains the signature of the same
10 elector 2 or more times, only the first valid signature of that
11 elector shall be counted.

12 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
13 after the date it is enacted into law.