



Senate Fiscal Agency
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Senate Bills 529 through 531 (as introduced 9-4-25)
Sponsor: Senator Jeremy Moss (S.B. 529 & S.B. 530)
Senator Jeff Irwin (S.B. 531)
Committee: Elections and Ethics

Date Completed: 9-9-25

CONTENT

Senate Bill 531 would amend the Michigan Election Law to do the following:

- Require that, if an elector signed a petition, nominating petition, qualifying petition for a candidate without political party affiliation, a petition to form a new State political party, or a recall petition more than once, only the first valid signature of that elector would be counted.
- Modify various petition headings and warnings in accordance with the requirement above.

Senate Bill 529 would amend the Michigan Election Law to prohibit an individual employed to circulate a petition, a nominating petition, a qualifying petition, or a recall petition from being paid a fixed rate or amount for each petition signature collected or for each completed petition signature sheet.

Senate Bill 530 would amend the Michigan Election Law to require the circulator of a petition to read to or allow an individual to read the summary of the purpose of a petition's proposed amendment or question before the individual signed the petition.

Senate Bill 531 would take effect 90 days after its enactment. Senate Bills 531 and 530 are described in detail below.

Senate Bill 531

Among other things, the Law prescribes physical requirements for ballot initiative petitions. For example, the Law requires the following statement to be printed beneath the petition heading: "We, the undersigned qualified and registered electors, residents in the _____ congressional district in the state of Michigan, respectively petition for (amendment to constitution) (initiation of legislation) (referendum of legislation) (other appropriate description).".

The bill would amend this language to read as follows: "We, the undersigned qualified and registered electors, residents in the _____ city township (strike 1) of _____, in the county of _____, in the state of Michigan, respectively petition for (amendment to constitution) (initiation of legislation) (referendum of legislation) (other appropriate description).".

The Law also requires the following warning to be printed in 12-point type immediately above the place for signatures, on each part of the petition: "A person who knowingly signs this petition more than once, signs a name other than his or her own, signs when not a qualified

and registered elector, or sets opposite his or her signature on a petition, a date other than the actual date the signature was affixed, is violating the provisions of the Michigan Election Law."

Instead, under the bill, if a petition, nominating petition, qualifying petition for a candidate without political party affiliation, a petition to form a new State political party, or a recall petition contained the signature of the same elector more than one time, only the first valid signature of that elector could be counted. As such, the bill would modify the warning to read as follows: "An individual who knowingly signs a name other than the individual's own name, signs when not a qualified and registered elector, or sets opposite the individual's signature on a petition a date other than the actual date the signature was affixed is violating the provisions of the Michigan Election Law."

Additionally, a petition to form a new political party must contain the following warning: "A person who knowingly signs petitions to organize more than one new State political party, signs a petition to organize a new State political party more than once, or signs a name other than his or her own is violating the provisions of the Michigan Election Law."

The Law prohibits an individual from knowingly signing a petition to organize more than one new State political party. It also prohibits a voter from signing a petition to a new State political party more than once. The bill would delete the latter provision. As such, the bill would modify the warning's language to read as follows: "An individual who knowingly signs petitions to organize more than one new State political party or signs a name other than the individual's own name is violating the provisions of the Michigan Election Law."

Currently, a person circulating a recall petition must fill out a certificate of circulator. Among other things, the circulator must certify that the circulator had 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. The bill would delete this provision.

Senate Bill 530

The bill would require the circulator of a petition to do either of the following before having an individual sign the petition:

- Indicate to the individual where the summary of the purpose of the proposed amendment or question proposed was located on the petition and give that individual the opportunity to read the summary.
- Read to the individual the summary of the purpose of the proposed amendment or question proposed.

If a circulator failed to comply with this requirement when obtaining a signature on a petition, the sponsor of the petition would be subject to a civil fine of up to \$1,500, or \$50 for each violation, whichever was greater.

MCL 168.483b & 168.957a (S.B. 529)
Proposed MCL 168.482g (S.B. 530)
MCL 168.482 et al. (S.B. 531)

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

(This section does not provide a comprehensive account of previous legislative efforts on this subject matter.)

Senate Bills 529 and 530 are reintroductions of Senate Bills 1108 (S-3) and 1109 (S-1) from the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. Senate Bill 531 is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 1110 as

introduced from the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. The Senate passed Senate Bills 1108 through 1110, which were referred to the House but received no further action.

Legislative Analyst: Abby Schneider

FISCAL IMPACT

Senate Bills 529 and 530 would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Senate Bill 531 could have a positive fiscal impact on the State and local units of government. The bill would impose a civil fine of up to \$1,500. Revenue collected from civil fines is used to support local libraries. Additionally, \$10 of the civil fine would be deposited into the State Justice System Fund, which supports justice-related activities across State government in the Departments of Corrections, Health and Human Services, State Police, and Treasury. The Fund also supports justice-related issues in the Legislative Retirement System and the Judiciary. The amount of revenue to the State or for local libraries is indeterminate and dependent on the actual number of violations.

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco, Jr.
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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.