

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 651

By: Dickerson of the Senate
and
Mass of the House

An Act directing the Secretary of State to refer to the people for their approval or rejection a proposed amendment to Section 18 of Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution; changing method for calculating number of signatures required to call grand jury; increasing maximum and minimum number of signatures required; requiring Legislature to enact laws to prevent abuse; providing ballot title; and directing filing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. The Secretary of State shall refer to the people for their approval or rejection at the next General Election, as and in the manner provided for by law, the following proposed amendment to Section 18 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma:

Section 18. A grand jury shall be composed of twelve (12) persons, any nine (9) of whom concurring may find an indictment or true bill. A grand jury shall be convened upon the order of a district judge upon his own motion; or such grand jury shall be ordered by a district judge upon the filing of a petition therefor signed by qualified electors of the county equal to ~~one percent (1%)~~

~~of the population of the county according to the last preceding Federal Decennial Census~~ the number of signatures required to propose legislation by a county by initiative petition as provided in Section 5 of Article V of the Oklahoma Constitution, with the minimum number of required signatures being ~~two hundred (200)~~ five hundred (500) and the maximum being ~~five hundred (500)~~ five thousand (5,000); and further providing that in any calendar year in which a grand jury has been convened pursuant to a petition therefor, then any subsequent petition filed during the same calendar year shall require double the minimum number of signatures as were required hereunder for the first petition; or such grand jury shall be ordered convened upon the filing of a verified application by the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma who shall have authority to conduct the grand jury in investigating crimes which are alleged to have been committed in said county or involving multicounty criminal activities; when so assembled such grand jury shall have power to inquire into and return indictments for all character and grades of crime. All other provisions of the Constitution or the laws of this state in conflict with the provisions of this constitutional amendment are hereby expressly repealed.

The Legislature shall enact laws to prevent corruption in making, filing, circulating and submitting petitions calling for convening a grand jury.

SECTION 2. The Ballot Title for the proposed Constitutional amendment as set forth in SECTION 1 of this act shall be in the following form:

BALLOT TITLE

Legislative Referendum No. _____ State Question No. _____

THE GIST OF THE PROPOSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

This measure amends Section 18 of Article 2 of the State Constitution. It changes the procedure for calculating the number of persons who must sign a petition to call for a grand

jury. It increases the minimum and maximum number required. It directs the Legislature to enact laws to prevent abuse.

SHALL THIS ACT BE APPROVED BY THE PEOPLE?

 / YES, FOR THE ACT

 / NO, AGAINST THE ACT

SECTION 3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall, immediately after the passage of this act, prepare and file one copy thereof, including the Ballot Title set forth in SECTION 2 hereof, with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney General.

Passed the Senate the 8th day of March, 1995.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of

_____, 1995.

Speaker of the House of Representatives