

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2246
Version:	CCS (7970)
Author:	Representative Terrill
Date:	May 14, 2009
Impact:	Secretary of State: On-going Costs - \$92,736, One-time Costs - \$14,000; Task Force Travel Reimbursement

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Arnella Karges

The Conference Committee Substitute (CCS) for HB2246 modifies the referendum and initiative petition processes, with the following major provisions:

- expanding the time an initiative petition may circulate from 90 days to one year;
- allowing any U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age, to circulate petitions, provided petition circulators register with the Secretary of State;
- outlining that the rights of citizens to engage in petition circulation will be protected and not infringed, listing prohibited behaviors and punishments; and
- prohibiting the Secretary of State from counting signatures that have been collected by an individual who has not registered as a petition circulator.

The CCS creates the Initiative and Referendum Task Force, consisting of 12 members, to continue until January 31, 2010, to examine Oklahoma's initiative and referendum petition process. Appointments must be made by September 1, 2009, and the first meeting will be called by the co-chairs by September 30, 2009. The House and Senate will provide staff support. The Secretary of State's office is required to provide information, records or reports as requested by the Task Force. The CCS outlines the duties of the Task Force and requires a report of findings and recommendations for legislation by December 31, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Terry McKenna

The Conference Committee Substitute for HB 2246 modifies the expiration of the time for filing an Initiative Petition from ninety days to one year from the date the petition is opened for filing. The measure also requires that a person circulating initiative or referendum petitions must be a registered voter in the state of Oklahoma or a person registered to circulate such measure and that person must be at least eighteen years old and a U.S. citizen. The circulator shall file a sworn affidavit with the Ethic Commission before final filing of signed petitions with the Office of the Secretary of State that provides personal information related to the circulator. The measure requires similar information from a person filing a request to withdraw their signature from a petition; and provides that the Secretary of State shall not include in the count all those signatures acquired by a petition circulator who has not registered with the Office. Finally, the measure creates the Initiative and Referendum Task Force to examine the initiative and petition process in Oklahoma to include a review of the cost to the Office of the Secretary of State.

Fiscal Analysis

The Office of the Secretary of State advises that under the provisions of the Conference Committee Substitute for HB 2246 the Office would incur \$92,736 in on-going costs and a one-time cost of \$14,000, for a total cost of \$106,736. The on-going costs are based on two petitions per year: circulator registration, data entry and proofing - \$24,300; signature verification (10 temporary counters) - \$67,336; supplies - \$1,100. The one-time costs are \$9,000 for additional lap-top computers and \$5,000 for IT development.

Travel reimbursement for legislative members of the Task Force would be dependent on the number of meetings held and the miles traveled.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

As Stated Above

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed by:

Mark Tygret

House Fiscal Director