

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2827

By: Echols

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to initiative and referendum;
amending 34 O.S. 2011, Section 9, as amended by
Section 5, Chapter 193, O.S.L. 2015 (34 O.S. Supp.
2017, Section 9), which relates to ballot titles;
modifying procedures for ballot titles of certain
referendums and petitions; and providing an effective
date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 34 O.S. 2011, Section 9, as
amended by Section 5, Chapter 193, O.S.L. 2015 (34 O.S. Supp. 2017,
Section 9), is amended to read as follows:

Section 9. A. When a referendum is ordered by petition of the
people against any measure passed by the Legislature or when any
measure is proposed by initiative petition, whether as an amendment
to the Constitution or as a statute, it shall be the duty of the
parties submitting the measure to prepare and file one copy of the
measure with the Secretary of State and one copy with the Attorney
General.

1 B. The parties submitting the measure shall also submit a
2 suggested ballot title to the Secretary of State which shall be
3 filed on a separate sheet of paper and shall not be part of or
4 printed on the petition. The suggested ballot title:

5 1. Shall not exceed two hundred ~~(200)~~ words;

6 2. Shall explain in basic words, which can be easily found in
7 dictionaries of general usage, the effect of the proposition;

8 3. Shall not contain any words which have a special meaning for
9 a particular profession or trade not commonly known to the citizens
10 of this state;

11 4. Shall not reflect partiality in its composition or contain
12 any argument for or against the measure;

13 5. Shall contain language which clearly states that a "yes"
14 vote is a vote in favor of the proposition and a "no" vote is a vote
15 against the proposition; and

16 6. Shall not contain language whereby a "yes" vote is, in fact,
17 a vote against the proposition and a "no" vote is, in fact, a vote
18 in favor of the proposition.

19 C. When a measure is proposed as a constitutional amendment by
20 the Legislature or when the Legislature proposes a statute
21 conditioned upon approval by the people:

22 1. After final passage of a measure, the Secretary of State
23 shall submit the proposed ballot title to the Attorney General for
24 review as to legal correctness. Within five (5) business days after

1 receipt from the Secretary of State, the Attorney General shall, in
2 writing, notify the Secretary of State, the President Pro Tempore of
3 the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
4 principal authors of the bill whether or not the proposed ballot
5 title complies with applicable laws. The Attorney General shall
6 state with specificity any and all defects found and, if necessary,
7 within ten (10) business days of determining that the proposed
8 ballot title is defective, prepare a preliminary ballot title which
9 complies with the law and furnish a copy of such ballot title to the
10 Secretary of State, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the principal authors of
12 the bill. The Attorney General may consider any comments made by
13 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or the Speaker of the House
14 of Representatives submitted within five (5) business days of their
15 being furnished a copy of the preliminary ballot title. The
16 Attorney General shall respond in writing to the comments and shall
17 file a final ballot title with the Secretary of State no later than
18 fifteen (15) business days after furnishing the preliminary ballot
19 title; and

20 2. After receipt of the measure and the official ballot title,
21 as certified by the Attorney General, the Secretary of State shall
22 within five (5) days transmit to the Secretary of the State Election
23 Board an attested copy of the measure, including the official ballot
24 title.

1 D. The following procedure shall apply to ballot titles of
2 referendums ordered by a petition of the people or any measure
3 proposed by an initiative petition:

4 1. After the filing of the signed referendum petitions or the
5 signed initiative petitions, the Secretary of State shall submit the
6 proposed separate ballot title to the Attorney General for review as
7 to legal correctness. Within five (5) business days after the
8 receipt of the ballot title, the Attorney General shall, in writing,
9 notify the Secretary of State whether or not the proposed ballot
10 title complies with applicable laws. The Attorney General shall
11 state with specificity any and all defects found and, if necessary,
12 within ten (10) business days of determining that the proposed
13 ballot title is defective, prepare and file a ballot title which
14 complies with the law; and

15 2. Within ten (10) business days ~~after publication of the~~
16 ~~notice required by subsection I of Section 8 of this title upon~~
17 completion of the review by the Attorney General, the Secretary of
18 State shall, if no appeal is filed, transmit to the Secretary of the
19 State Election Board an attested copy of the measure, including the
20 official ballot title, and a certification that the requirements of
21 this section have been met. If an appeal is taken from such ballot
22 title within the time specified in Section 10 of this title, then
23 the Secretary of State shall certify to the Secretary of the State
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1 Election Board the ballot title which is finally approved by the
2 Supreme Court.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2018.

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