

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-sixth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

PREAMENDED

LLS NO. R08-1041.01 Ed DeCecco

SCR08-003

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Tapia**, Shaffer, Mitchell S., Isgar, Groff, Gordon, Bacon, Boyd, Keller, Morse, Romer, and Williams

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**White**, Kerr A., Roberts, and Madden

**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans & Military Affairs

**House Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 08-003**

101     **SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF**  
102             **COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE V OF**  
103             **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, CONCERNING**  
104             **INITIATIVES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING THE**  
105             **NUMBER OF SIGNATURES GATHERED ON A PROPOSED INITIATIVE**  
106             **PETITION FOR STATE LEGISLATION TO BE EQUAL TO AT LEAST**  
107             **FOUR PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION**  
108             **FOR GOVERNOR; REQUIRING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES**  
109             **GATHERED ON A PROPOSED INITIATIVE PETITION FOR AN**  
110             **AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO BE EQUAL TO AT LEAST**  
111             **SIX PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION**  
112             **FOR GOVERNOR; REQUIRING A MINIMUM NUMBER OF**  
113             **SIGNATURES FOR AN INITIATIVE PETITION TO AMEND THE STATE**

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 21, 2008

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 18, 2008

101            CONSTITUTION TO BE GATHERED FROM RESIDENTS OF EACH  
102            CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE STATE; REQUIRING AN  
103            INITIATIVE PETITION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE  
104            CONSTITUTION TO BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
105            FIVE MONTHS BEFORE AN ELECTION; AND REQUIRING A  
106            TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE  
107            OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND, REPEAL, OR SUPERSEDE  
108            ANY LAW ENACTED BY AN INITIATIVE FOR A PERIOD OF SIX  
109            YEARS AFTER THE LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE.

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### **Resolution Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this resolution as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Establishes the minimum number of signatures of registered electors required for a proposed initiative, which is currently equal to 5% of the votes cast in the previous election for secretary of state, to be as follows:

- !        For a proposed initiated statute, 4% of the votes cast in the previous election for the office of governor; and
- !        For a proposed initiated amendment to the constitution, 6% of the votes cast in the previous election for the office of governor.

Requires a minimum number of signatures on an initiative petition to amend the state constitution to be gathered from residents in each congressional district in the state, which amount is equal to 70% of the minimum number of the total signatures required for such petition divided by the number of the United States congressional districts in Colorado.

Requires an initiative petition for an amendment to the constitution to be addressed to and filed with the secretary of state at least 7 months before the general or odd-year election at which it is to be voted upon, instead of 3 months as currently required.

Requires a 2/3 vote of all members elected to each house of the general assembly to repeal or amend an initiated statute for a period of 6 years after passage of the statute.

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1            *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly*

1 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

2 **SECTION 1.** At the next election at which such question may be  
3 submitted, there shall be submitted to the registered electors of the state  
4 of Colorado, for their approval or rejection, the following amendment to  
5 the constitution of the state of Colorado, to wit:

6 Section 1 (2) and (4) of article V of the constitution of the state of  
7 Colorado are amended to read:

8 **Section 1. General assembly - initiative and referendum.**

9 (2) The first power hereby reserved by the people is the initiative. ~~and~~  
10 Signatures by registered electors in an amount equal to at least ~~five~~ FOUR  
11 percent of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office  
12 of ~~secretary of state~~ GOVERNOR at the previous general election shall be  
13 required to propose ~~any measure by petition, and~~ AN INITIATIVE PETITION  
14 FOR STATE LEGISLATION. SIGNATURES BY REGISTERED ELECTORS IN AN  
15 AMOUNT EQUAL TO AT LEAST SIX PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF  
16 VOTES CAST FOR ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR AT THE  
17 PREVIOUS GENERAL ELECTION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PROPOSE AN  
18 INITIATIVE PETITION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION. FOR AN  
19 INITIATIVE PETITION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, THE  
20 MINIMUM NUMBER OF SIGNATURES BY REGISTERED ELECTORS WHO RESIDE  
21 IN EACH UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN COLORADO SHALL  
22 BE AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF  
23 THE TOTAL SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR SUCH PETITION DIVIDED BY THE  
24 NUMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN  
25 COLORADO AS OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL ELECTION. Every ~~such~~ petition  
26 shall include the full text of the measure so proposed. Initiative petitions  
27 for state legislation, ~~and amendments to the constitution,~~ in such form as

1 may be prescribed pursuant to law, shall be addressed to and filed with  
2 the secretary of state at least three months before the ~~general~~ election  
3 at which they are to be voted upon. INITIATIVE PETITIONS FOR  
4 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, IN SUCH FORM AS MAY BE  
5 PRESCRIBED PURSUANT TO LAW, SHALL BE ADDRESSED TO AND FILED WITH  
6 THE SECRETARY OF STATE AT LEAST FIVE MONTHS BEFORE THE  
7 ELECTION AT WHICH THEY ARE TO BE VOTED UPON.

8 (4) The veto power of the governor shall not extend to measures  
9 initiated by or referred to the people. All elections on measures initiated  
10 by or referred to the people of the state shall be held at the biennial  
11 regular general election, and all such measures shall become the law or  
12 a part of the constitution, when approved by a majority of the votes cast  
13 thereon, and not otherwise, and shall take effect from and after the date  
14 of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the  
15 governor, but not later than thirty days after the vote has been canvassed.  
16 This section shall not be construed to deprive the general assembly of the  
17 power to enact any measure; EXCEPT THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
18 SHALL NOT ~~AMEND, REPEAL, OR SUPERSEDE~~ ANY LAW ENACTED BY AN  
19 INITIATIVE FOR A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS AFTER THE LAW BECOMES  
20 EFFECTIVE UNLESS APPROVED BY A VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE  
21 MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH HOUSE.

22 **SECTION 2.** Each elector voting at said election and desirous of  
23 voting for or against said amendment shall cast a vote as provided by law  
24 either "Yes" or "No" on the proposition: "AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION  
25 1 OF ARTICLE V OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO,  
26 CONCERNING INITIATIVES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING  
27 THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES GATHERED ON A PROPOSED INITIATIVE

1 PETITION FOR STATE LEGISLATION TO BE EQUAL TO AT LEAST FOUR  
2 PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR;  
3 REQUIRING THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES GATHERED ON A PROPOSED  
4 INITIATIVE PETITION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO BE  
5 EQUAL TO AT LEAST SIX PERCENT OF THE VOTES CAST IN THE PREVIOUS  
6 ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR; REQUIRING A MINIMUM NUMBER OF  
7 SIGNATURES FOR AN INITIATIVE PETITION TO AMEND THE STATE  
8 CONSTITUTION TO BE GATHERED FROM RESIDENTS OF EACH  
9 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN THE STATE; REQUIRING AN INITIATIVE  
10 PETITION FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO BE FILED WITH  
11 THE SECRETARY OF STATE FIVE MONTHS BEFORE AN ELECTION; AND  
12 REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS ELECTED TO EACH  
13 HOUSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND, REPEAL, OR SUPERSEDE  
14 ANY LAW ENACTED BY AN INITIATIVE FOR A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS AFTER  
15 THE LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE."

16 **SECTION 3.** The votes cast for the adoption or rejection of said  
17 amendment shall be canvassed and the result determined in the manner  
18 provided by law for the canvassing of votes for representatives in  
19 Congress, and if a majority of the electors voting on the question shall  
20 have voted "Yes", the said amendment shall become a part of the state  
21 constitution.