

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3031

Introduced by

Representatives Vetter, Cory, Hoverson, Klemin, Motschenbacher, Rios

Senator Paulson

A concurrent resolution to amend and reenact sections 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9 of article III of the Constitution of North Dakota, relating to the subject matter of initiated measures and constitutional amendments, the manner of signing petitions, the establishment of an electronic signature gathering system by the secretary of state, and the threshold for placing a measure on the ballot; to provide for application; and to provide an effective date.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This measure prohibits an initiated measure and a constitutional amendment placed on the ballot from comprising more than one subject. This measure also requires the secretary of state to implement, by December 31, 2025, and maintain an electronic signature gathering system for receiving signatures for proposed measures. The measure requires a petition gatherer to verify a petition was signed in a manner provided by law. The measure provides after December 31, 2025, the threshold for placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot is ten percent of the resident population of the state at the last federal decennial census, and for all other measures, five percent of the resident population of the state at the last federal decennial census. The measure provides that if the majority of the total votes cast upon an initiated constitution measure are affirmative and a majority affirmative vote is received in a majority of the ~~counties~~ legislative districts in the state, at both the primary and general election, the measure is enacted.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE
SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

That the following proposed amendments to sections 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9 of article III of the Constitution of North Dakota are agreed to and must be submitted to the qualified electors of North Dakota at the general election to be held in 2024, in accordance with section 16 of article IV of the Constitution of North Dakota.

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 2 of article III of the Constitution of North Dakota is amended and reenacted as follows:

Section 2. An initiated measure may not comprise more than one subject, as determined by the secretary of state. A petition to initiate or to refer a measure must be presented to the secretary of state for approval as to form and compliance with the single subject requirement. A request for approval must be presented over the names and signatures of twenty-five or more electors as sponsors, one of whom must be designated as chairman of the sponsoring committee. The secretary of state shall approve the petition for circulation if it is in proper form and contains the names and addresses of the sponsors and the full text of the measure.

The legislative assembly may provide by law for a procedure through which the legislative council may establish an appropriate method for determining the fiscal impact of an initiative measure and for making the information regarding the fiscal impact of the measure available to the public.

The legislative assembly shall provide by law for the establishment and maintenance of an electronic signature gathering system for the collection of petition signatures in elections overseen by the secretary of state. The laws provided by the legislative assembly must permit signature gatherers to collect signatures solely by electronic means. The legislative assembly shall permit the secretary of state ~~shall establish and~~ to adopt rules to maintain-a, operate, and oversee the secure electronic signature gathering system ~~to~~. The secure electronic signature gathering system must be hosted on the website of the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall procure the technical resources to allow any elector, upon proof of qualification, to electronically sign forms and petitions relating to all initiated and referred measures, recall petitions, and candidate nominations.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 3 of article III of the Constitution of North Dakota is amended and reenacted as follows:

Section 3. The petition ~~shall~~may be circulated only by electors. ~~They~~A signature gatherer shall swear ~~thereon~~on the petition that the electors who have signed the petition did so in their presence or electronically signed the petition in a manner provided by law. Each elector signing a petition ~~shall~~ also shall write in the date of signing and ~~his post-office~~the elector's complete residential address. ~~No~~A law ~~shall may not~~ be enacted ~~limiting~~which limits the number of copies of a petition. The copies ~~shall~~must become part of the original petition when filed.

1 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 4 of article III of the Constitution of North Dakota is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **Section 4.** The petition may be submitted to the secretary of state if signed by electors
4 equal in number to ~~two~~five percent of the resident population of the state at the last federal
5 decennial census.

6 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 8 of article III of the Constitution of North Dakota is
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **Section 8.** If a majority of votes cast upon an initiated statutory measure or a referred
9 measure are affirmative, ~~it shall be~~the measure is deemed enacted. An initiated statutory or
10 referred measure ~~which that~~ is approved ~~shall become~~becomes law thirty days after the election,
11 and a referred measure ~~which that~~ is rejected ~~shall be~~is void immediately. If conflicting measures
12 are approved, the ~~one~~measure receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall be law. A
13 measure approved by the electors may not be repealed or amended by the legislative assembly
14 for seven years from ~~its~~the effective date of the measure, except by a two-thirds vote of the
15 members elected to each house.

16 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 9 of article III of the Constitution of North Dakota is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **Section 9.**

- 19 1. A constitutional amendment may be proposed by initiative petition. The proposed
20 amendment may not comprise more than one subject, as determined by the secretary
21 of state, and the secretary of state may not approve the initiative petition for circulation
22 if the proposed amendment comprises more than one subject.
- 23 2. If signed by electors equal in number to ~~four~~ten percent of the resident population of
24 the state at the last federal decennial census, the petition may be submitted to the
25 secretary of state.
- 26 3. The secretary of state shall place the proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot
27 at the next primary election. If the majority of the total votes cast on the measure are
28 affirmative and the measure is approved by a majority of the votes cast in a majority of
29 the ~~counties~~legislative districts in the state, the measure must be placed on the ballot
30 at the next general election for final consideration. If a majority of the total votes cast
31 for a proposed constitutional amendment are affirmative and the measure is approved

1 by a majority of the votes cast in a majority of the ~~counties~~legislative districts in the
2 state in the general election, the measure is deemed enacted.
3 ~~3.4.~~ All other provisions relating to initiative measures apply heretto initiative measures for
4 constitutional amendments.

5 **SECTION 6. APPLICATION - EFFECTIVE DATE.** The requirement in section 1 of this
6 measure which requires the secretary of state to establish and maintain a secure electronic
7 signature gathering system becomes effective January 1, 2026. ~~Section~~Sections 2 and 3 of this
8 measure ~~becomes~~become effective January 1, 2026, and ~~does~~do not apply to any measure
9 approved for circulation before that date. The amendment to section 9 of article III of the
10 Constitution of North Dakota in section ~~4~~5 of this measure becomes effective January 1, 2026,
11 and does not apply to any measure approved for circulation before that date.