#### 2023 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1324

# **2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

## **Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**

Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1324 1/27/2023

## Relating to sufficiency of petitions as determined by the secretary of state.

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 9:26 AM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, Mary Schneider. All present.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Amendment
- Clear and convincing evidence
- Criteria for a valid signature

Rep. Kasper introduced HB 1324, speaking in favor of bill and proposed an amendment (#21185).

Michael Howe, North Dakota Secretary of State, spoke in support.

LeAnn Oliver, with the North Dakota Secretary of State office, answered questions from the committee.

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 9:47 AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

# **2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

## **Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**

Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1324 2/2/2023

Relating to sufficiency of petitions as determined by the secretary of state.

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 11:25 AM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, Mary Schneider. All present.

## **Discussion Topics:**

- Amendment
- Committee work

Chairman Schauer called for a discussion on HB 1324.

Rep. Steiner moved to amend HB 1324 (#23.0737.01001) (#21185).

Seconded by Rep. Rohr.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	AB
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion carries 12-0-1.

Rep. Hoverson moved a do not pass as amended on HB 1324.

Seconded by Rep. Bahl.

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee HB 1324 2/2/2023 Page 2

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	N
Representative Bernie Satrom	N
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Claire Cory	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	N
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Scott Louser	N
Representative Carrie McLeod	N
Representative Karen M. Rohr	N
Representative Mary Schneider	AB
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Steve Vetter	N

Motion fails 2-10-1.

Rep. Vetter moved a do pass as amended on HB 1324.

Seconded by Rep. Steiner.

Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	N
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	AB
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion carries 10-2-1.

Carried by Rep. Vetter.

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 11:37 AM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

23.0737.01001 Title.02000

2-2-22

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1324

Page 1, after line 7, insert:

"<u>1.</u>"

Page 1, line 18, replace "<u>a preponderance of the evidence</u>" with "<u>clear and convincing</u> <u>evidence</u>"

Page 1, after line 20, insert:

"2. For purposes of this section "clear and convincing evidence" means that degree of proof which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition on which the challenging party has the burden of proof is true."

#### REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1324: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (10 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1324 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, after line 7, insert:

"<u>1.</u>"

Page 1, line 18, replace "<u>a preponderance of the evidence</u>" with "<u>clear and convincing</u> <u>evidence</u>"

Page 1, after line 20, insert:

"2. For purposes of this section "clear and convincing evidence" means that degree of proof which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition on which the challenging party has the burden of proof is true."

## 2023 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 1324

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

# State and Local Government Committee

Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1324 3/17/2023

## Relating to sufficiency of petitions as determined by the secretary of state.

10:30 AM Chair Roers opened the hearing. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

#### **Discussion Topics:**

- Valid signatures
- Secretary of State duties
- Evidence standards

Rep Kasper, Dist 46, bill sponsor testified in support #25706.

Michael Howe, ND Secretary of State testified in support with no written testimony.

## Additional written testimony:

Mitchell Sanderson, Park River, ND opposed #25391.

10:39 AM Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

# 2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

# State and Local Government Committee

Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1324 3/24/2023

Relating to sufficiency of petitions as determined by the Secretary of State.

3:23 PL Chair Roers opened committee work. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

## **Discussion Topics:**

Committee action

Sen Braunberger moved amendment 23.0737.02001.

Sen Barta seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y

Motion PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – 6 NO – 0 Absent – 0

Sen Braunberger moved a DO PASS as Amended.

Sen Estenson seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – 6 NO – 0 Absent – 0 Motion PASSED

Sen Lee will carry the bill.

3:30 PM Chair Roers adjourned the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

23.0737.02001 Title.03000 Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for Representative Kasper March 17, 2023

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1324

Page 1, line 13, after the period insert "<u>The secretary of state shall have discretion over the</u> random sampling process as to the validity of the individual signatures, or groupings of signatures, and may determine whether those signatures are to be counted as part of the necessary signature amount."

#### **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

- HB 1324, as engrossed: State and Local Government Committee (Sen. K. Roers, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends DO PASS (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1324 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.
- Page 1, line 13, after the period insert "<u>The secretary of state shall have discretion over the</u> random sampling process as to the validity of the individual signatures, or groupings of signatures, and may determine whether those signatures are to be counted as part of the necessary signature amount."

#### **2023 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

HB 1324

# **2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

## **Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**

Pioneer Room, State Capitol

## HB 1324 4/6/2023 Conference Committee

## Relating to sufficiency of petitions as determined by the secretary of state.

Chairman Vetter called the meeting to order at 4:42 PM.

Chairman Steve Vetter, Representative Jeff A. Hoverson, Madam Chair Lee, Senators Jeff Barta, and Sean Cleary present. Rep. Carrie McLeod virtually present.

#### **Discussion Topics:**

- Signature count
- Validity of signatures

Chairman Vetter called for a discussion on HB 1324 as engrossed.

Rep. Vetter discussed the changes in language between the amendments made in the House and Senate.

Madam Chair Lee moved to recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows with 23.0737.02003 (#27363 and #27871).

Seconded by Sen. Cleary.

Motion carries 6-0-0.

Sen. Lee to carry in the Senate.

Rep. Vetter to carry in the House.

Chairman Vetter adjourned the meeting at 4:51 PM.

Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk

23.0737.02003 Title.04000 Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for Representative Kasper March 31, 2023

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1324

That the Senate recede from its amendments as printed on page 1487 of the House Journal and page 1158 of the Senate Journal and that Engrossed House Bill No. 1324 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 13, overstrike "to determine the validity of the signatures" and insert immediately thereafter "from which the secretary of state may exercise the secretary's judgment as to the validity of the individual signatures or groupings of signatures and other irregularities in the petition, thereby determining whether those signatures are to be counted as part of the necessary signature amount"

#### 2023 HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL NO. 1324 as engrossed

#### House Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee

#### 

- □ HOUSE accede to Senate Amendments and further amend
- SENATE recede from Senate amendments
- $\hfill\square$  SENATE recede from Senate amendments and amend as follows
- □ **Unable to agree**, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

Motion Made by: <u>Sen. Lee</u> Seconded by: <u>Sen. Cleary</u>						_	
Representatives	4/6	Yes	No	Senators	4/6	Yes	No
Chairman Vetter	X	Y		Madam Chair Lee	X	Y	
Representative Hoverson	X	Y		Senator Barta	Х	Y	
Representative McLeod	Х	Y		Senator Cleary	Х	Y	
Total Rep. Vote				Total Senate Vote			
Vote Count	Yes: <u>6</u>			No: <u>0</u>	Absent: _	0	-
House Carrier <u>Rep</u>	o. Vetter			Senate Carrier <u>Sen.</u>	Lee		
LC Number <u>23.07</u>	37		•	02003	of ar	nendment	
LC Number 23.0737				· 04000		of engrossr	nent

## Statement of Purpose of Amendment:

To include the secretary of state's judgement in validity of individual signatures.

Insert LC: 23.0737.02003 House Carrier: Vetter Senate Carrier: Lee

#### REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**HB 1324, as engrossed:** Your conference committee (Sens. Lee, Barta, Cleary and Reps. Vetter, Hoverson, McLeod) recommends that the **SENATE RECEDE** from the Senate amendments as printed on HJ page 1487, adopt amendments as follows, and place HB 1324 on the Seventh order:

That the Senate recede from its amendments as printed on page 1487 of the House Journal and page 1158 of the Senate Journal and that Engrossed House Bill No. 1324 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 13, overstrike "to determine the validity of the signatures" and insert immediately thereafter "from which the secretary of state may exercise the secretary's judgment as to the validity of the individual signatures or groupings of signatures and other irregularities in the petition, thereby determining whether those signatures are to be counted as part of the necessary signature amount"

Renumber accordingly

Engrossed HB 1324 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

TESTIMONY

HB 1324

23.0737.01001 Title. Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for Representative Kasper January 23, 2023

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1324

Page 1, after line 7, insert:

"<u>1.</u>"

Page 1, line 18, replace "a preponderance of the evidence" with "clear and convincing evidence"

Page 1, after line 20, insert:

"2. For purposes of this section "clear and convincing evidence" means that degree of proof which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition on which the challenging party has the burden of proof is true."

#### HB 1324

#### (Initiatives)

#### Leave the Citizens initiative process alone!

You should be adding wording to this bill to charge those in government who violate the Federal Hatch Act and ND Corrupt Practices Act.

Many in the ND government have violated both of these laws opposing a citizen's initiative which is in violation of Federal and State laws. You cannot even use you title or resources to support or oppose an initiative. Looks like we are going to have to file legal action on those in government who have violated these laws!!!!!

You all should be helping the people get involved in the government instead of punishing those who do the initiative process because their legislators are failing the people.

It is Unconstitutional to restrict or hinder the initiative process in any way! This will be challenged in court if any restriction or hindering is done in any bill!!!!!

# North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared for Representative Kasper LC# 23.9531.01000 January 2023

# Legislative Council

## CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE STANDARD

Clear and convincing evidence is a legal standard of proof used by judicial systems across the United States. The clear and convincing standard is referenced throughout the North Dakota Century Code and is applied to numerous areas of law. This memorandum provides common examples of the application of the clear and convincing evidence standard under state law.

#### JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION

In Colorado v. New Mexico, 467 U.S. 310, 2437 (1984), the Supreme Court of the United States held, "clear and convincing" means the evidence is highly and substantially more likely to be true than untrue.

In State v. Schneider, 550 N.W.2d 405, 409 (N.D. 1996), the challenging party argued the phrase "firm and abiding conviction," as used in jury instructions to describe "reasonable doubt," was erroneous. *Id.* The challenging party argued the phrase "firm and abiding conviction" described "clear and convincing evidence," not the criminal standard of "proof beyond a reasonable doubt." *Id.* The North Dakota Supreme Court in *Schneider* opined and ultimately held:

We acknowledge the phrase "firm and abiding conviction" used in the jury instruction on reasonable doubt could be likened to the phrase "firm belief or conviction" associated with the lesser standard of clear and convincing evidence. However, seemingly consistent phrases can take on different connotations depending upon the context in which they are used. *Id.* 

The North Dakota Supreme Court in Schneider held, "[T]he phrase "firm and abiding conviction" does not lead a jury to find guilt at a standard of proof below that required by the Constitution." *Id.* at 410. In essence, the court found that the phrase "firm and abiding conviction" describes the criminal standard of "proof beyond a reasonable doubt," not "clear and convincing evidence."

According to the *Illinois Pattern Jury Instructions, Criminal,* No. 4.19 (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2000). "The phrase clear and convincing evidence means that degree of proof which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding belief that it is highly probable that the proposition on which the defendant has the burden of proof is true."

#### STATUTORY EXAMPLES

#### Agency

When determining if an agency relationship exists under North Dakota Century Code Section 3-02-02, the North Dakota Supreme Court held in *Farmers Union Oil Co. v. Wood*, 301 N.W.2d 129 (N.D. 1980), "Where the existence of an agency relationship is denied, the burden of proof is upon the party who affirms its existence to establish such existence by clear and convincing evidence."

#### Fraud

When determining if the elements of "actual fraud" under Section 9-03-08 are met, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of North Dakota held in *In re Valeu*, 53 B.R. 549 (Bankr. D.N.D. 1985), "Fraud is never presumed, but must be proved by clear and convincing evidence."

#### Deceit

When discussing if the elements of "deceit" under Section 9-10-02 are met, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit held in *Macquarie Bank Ltd. v. Knickel*, 793 F.3d 926, 934 (8th Cir. 2015), "Deceit and fraud claims must be proved by clear and convincing evidence."

#### Contracts

When determining if the terms of a contract may be reformed or if a mutual mistake exists, the North Dakota Supreme Court held in *Motter v. Traill Rural Water Dist.*, 2017 ND 267, 903 N.W.2d 725, 729:

The party seeking reformation of a written instrument must establish by clear and convincing evidence that the document does not state the parties' intended agreement... [and] Courts grant the high remedy of reformation only upon the certainty of error.

#### Domestic Relations

When determining parental rights and responsibilities under Section 14-09-06.2, 13 factors must be considered. Two of those factors relate to the preference of the child and the rebuttable presumption associated with domestic violence. Section 14-09-06.2(1)(i)(j) states:

- i. If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that a child is of sufficient maturity to make a sound judgment, the court may give substantial weight to the preference of the mature child. The court also shall give due consideration to other factors that may have affected the child's preference, including whether the child's preference was based on undesirable or improper influences.
- Evidence of domestic violence. In determining parental rights and responsibilities, the court shall j. consider evidence of domestic violence. If the court finds credible evidence that domestic violence has occurred, and there exists one incident of domestic violence which resulted in serious bodily injury or involved the use of a dangerous weapon or there exists a pattern of domestic violence within a reasonable time proximate to the proceeding, this combination creates a rebuttable presumption that a parent who has perpetrated domestic violence may not be awarded residential responsibility for the child. This presumption may be overcome only by clear and convincing evidence that the best interests of the child require that parent have residential responsibility. The court shall cite specific findings of fact to show that the residential responsibility best protects the child and the parent or other family or household member who is the victim of domestic violence. If necessary to protect the welfare of the child, residential responsibility for a child may be awarded to a suitable third person, provided that the person would not allow access to a violent parent except as ordered by the court. If the court awards residential responsibility to a third person, the court shall give priority to the child's nearest suitable adult relative. The fact that the abused parent suffers from the effects of the abuse may not be grounds for denying that parent residential responsibility. As used in this subdivision, "domestic violence" means domestic violence as defined in section 14-07.1-01. A court may consider, but is not bound by, a finding of domestic violence in another proceeding under chapter 14-07.1.

In Queen v. Martel, 2022 ND 178, 980 N.W.2d 914, the North Dakota Supreme Court held:

In an action concerning residential responsibility for a minor child, the district court erred by failing to make sufficient findings of fact under N.D.C.C. § 14-09-06.2(1)(j), regarding whether the presumption that a parent who has perpetrated domestic violence may not be awarded residential responsibility for the child had been overcome by clear and convincing evidence that the best interests of the child required that parent have residential responsibility, citing specific findings of fact to show that the residential responsibility best protected the child and the parent or other family or household member who was the victim of domestic violence.

#### Involuntary Admission

When determining if an individual is a "person requiring treatment" under Section 25-03.1-02(13), the North Dakota Supreme Court held in *In Interest of T.A.*, 472 N.W.2d 226, 227 (N.D. 1991), "Involuntary commitment is authorized only upon clear and convincing evidence that a respondent requires treatment."

When determining if a court may authorize involuntary treatment with prescribed medication under Section 25-03.1-18.1, clear and convincing evidence must be demonstrated. In *In re B.L.S.*, 2006 ND 218, 723 N.W.2d 395, the North Dakota Supreme Court held:

Clear and convincing evidence supported conclusion that forced treatment with psychotropic medications was required to treat inmate who had been found to be mentally ill and requiring treatment; after psychiatrist filed request to treat with medication, another physician certified that use of medications to treat inmate was clinically appropriate and necessary, and that there was a reasonable expectation that, if inmate was not treated with medications, his condition would create a serious risk of harm to his person, and that inmate had been offered medication, but had refused it.

When determining if a court may commit a sexually dangerous individual under Section 25-03.3-13, the North Dakota Supreme Court held in *In re P.F.*, 2006 ND 82, 712 N.W.2d 610:

Respondent was properly committed as a sexually dangerous individual because he had a history of sexually predatory conduct and numerous mental diseases that made him likely to re-offend, and the State carried its burden to show by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent was a sexually dangerous individual.

#### Guardianships

When determining if a court may appoint a guardian of a child under Section 27-20.1-11, in addition to other factors, the court may appoint a guardian of a child if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the appointment is in the child's best interest. In *Interest of Guardianship of A.D.*, 2021 ND 205, 966 N.W.2d 540, the North Dakota Supreme Court held:

The juvenile court did not err by granting a guardianship for the child because it found the father had abandoned the child. The juvenile court found by clear and convincing evidence that the father had not provided care for or had any contact with the child since 2007 or 2008 and had not made any significant attempts to locate the child or have the child placed in his care.

When determining if a court may appoint a guardian of an incapacitated individual under Section 30.1-28-04, the North Dakota Supreme Court held in *Matter of Guardianship of Braaten*, 502 N.W.2d 512 (N.D. 1993), "The guardianship law mandates that the trial court find incapacity, lack of an alternative resource plan, and necessity of guardianship supervision, all by clear and convincing evidence, then select the least restrictive form of intervention."

#### Adverse Possession

When determining if a claim for adverse possession is valid under Section 28-01-04, the North Dakota Supreme Court held in *Benson v. Taralseth*, 382 N.W.2d 649 (N.D. 1986), "The burden of proving adverse possession rests with the person alleging it and must be established by clear and convincing evidence."

#### Firearm Restoration

Section 62.1-02-01.1(2) states:

- The district court may restore the right of an individual to possess a firearm if the court determines, by clear and convincing evidence, that all of the following circumstances exist:
  - a. The individual has paid all fines imposed for the violation resulting in the prohibition;
  - b. The individual has served all terms of imprisonment imposed for the violation resulting in the prohibition;
  - c. The individual has successfully completed all conditions of probation or parole imposed for the violation resulting in the prohibition; and
  - d. The individual's record and reputation are such that the individual is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to the safety of others.

#### 23.0737.02003

#### FIRST ENGROSSMENT

Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

#### **ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1324**

Introduced by

Representatives Kasper, Koppelman, Louser, Rohr, D. Ruby, Steiner, Vetter, Vigesaa Senator Vedaa

- 1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 16.1-01-10 of the North Dakota Century Code,
- 2 relating to sufficiency of petitions as determined by the secretary of state.

# 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-01-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is 5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 16.1-01-10. Secretary of state to pass upon sufficiency of petitions - Method - Time 7 limit.

8	<u>1.</u>	The secretary of state shall have a reasonable period, not to exceed thirty-five days, in
9		which to pass upon the sufficiency of any petition mentioned in section 16.1-01-09.
10		The secretary of state shall conduct a representative random sampling of the
11		signatures contained in the petitions by the use of questionnaires, postcards,
12		telephone calls, personal interviews, or other accepted information-gathering
13		techniques, or any combinations thereof, to determine the validity of the
14		signaturesfrom which a random sampling the secretary of state may exercise the
15		secretary's judgment as to the validity of the individual signatures or groupings of
16		signatures and other irregularities in the petition, thereby determining whether those
17		signatures are to be counted as part of the necessary signature amount. Signatures
18		determined by the secretary of state to be invalid may not be counted and allif the
19		number of valid signatures received is less than the required number of signatures to
20		<u>place the measure on the ballot, the secretary of state may not allow the measure to</u>
21		be placed on the ballot. When the secretary of state does not approve the measure to
22		be placed on the ballot due to an insufficient petition, the action is presumed to be
23		lawful, unless the presumption is rebutted by clear and convincing evidence that the

## Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly

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1		action of the secretary of state was unlawful. All violations of law discovered by the
2		secretary of state must be reported to the attorney general for prosecution.
3	<u>2.</u>	For purposes of this section "clear and convincing evidence" means that degree of
4		proof which, considering all the evidence in the case, produces the firm and abiding
5		belief that it is highly probable that the proposition on which the challenging party has
6		the burden of proof is true.

23.0737.02003 Title.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1324

That the Senate recede from its amendments as printed on page(s) of the House Journal and page 1158 of the Senate Journal and that Engrossed House Bill No. 1324 be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 13, overstrike "to determine the validity of the signatures" and insert immediately thereafter "from which a random sampling the secretary of state may exercise the secretary's judgment as to the validity of the individual signatures or groupings of signatures and other irregularities in the petition, thereby determining whether those signatures are to be counted as part of the necessary signature amount"